

# **The Ministry of the Spirit**



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# The Ministry of the Spirit

Lesson #1  
The Convicting Spirit  
John 16:7-11

## Introduction:

- A. The religious world has brought confusion to the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
  - 1. This confusion leads to false practice.
  - 2. This confusion leads to wicked practice.
  - 3. This confusion leads to counterfeit practice.
- B. The believer must dig into the Scripture to find the truth regarding the ministry of the Spirit.
  - 1. This will bring stability and clarity where once was misunderstanding. Eph 4:11
  - 2. This will allow us to avoid the pitfalls of false teaching and practice.
- C. Throughout this series, we wish to set out, in order, the ministry of the Spirit of God.
  - 1. We will not take the time to teach the Holy Spirit as the third Person of the Trinity.
  - 2. We will not take the time to teach the differences between the ministry of the Spirit in the Old Testament and New Testament.
  - 3. We will endeavour to present a concise understanding of the various aspects of the ministry of the Spirit in the present age.
- D. The first ministry of the Spirit, as it relates to mankind, is that of conviction.
  - 1. We will learn who is convicted by the Spirit.
  - 2. We will learn in what areas the Spirit produces conviction
  - 3. We will learn what tools the Spirit uses to produce conviction.
  - 4. We will study the effects and results of Holy Spirit conviction.

## I. The Target of Conviction. Joh 16:8

- A. “The world.”
  - 1. “The world” does not refer to planet Earth but to mankind in general.
  - 2. All men are sinners by nature, and the term “the world” may be applied to them all. Joh 1:10; 1Jn 5:19
  - 3. “The world” is not confined to one people (race), place, or time.
- B. The Godhead and the world.
  - 1. The Father, Lover of the world. Joh 3:16
  - 2. The Son, Saviour of the world. 1Jn 4:14
  - 3. The Spirit, Reprover of the world. Joh 16:8
    - **Reprove** — to convict of a fault, or to make it manifest (Webster’s Dictionary 1828).

## II. The Topics of Conviction. Joh 16:8

A. From the Spirit.

1. Sin.

○ **Sin** — a trespass or offence; a fault.

a. All have sinned. Rom 3:10-12, 23

○ Any sin makes the sinner guilty before God. Jas 2:10

b. All are sinners.

○ Due to...

○ Birth — every individual is born with a sin nature: the inclination to go his own way. Psa 51:5

○ Choice — every individual makes a choice to go his own way. Rom 3:12

○ Through...

○ Deed.

○ Thought.

○ Attitude.

c. All are far from God through sin...

○ Presently. Rev 3:11-12

○ Eternally. Rev 20:14-15

d. Faith in Christ is the only remedy. Joh 8:23-24; Rom 5:1

○ Conviction of sin points to faith in Christ.

2. Righteousness.

a. Righteousness personified.

○ Christ is the eternal, complete standard for righteousness. Psa 111:3; Heb 7:26

b. Righteousness enabled.

○ Man's righteousness cannot enable to grace of God. Isa 64:6; Rom 10:3

○ Faith in Christ is the only remedy, by which His righteousness is imputed to the account of the believer. Isa 45:24-25; Jer 23:5-6; Rom 1:17; 3:21-22; 4:24-25; 5:18; 10:4; 1Co 1:30; 2Co 5:21; Php 3:7-9

○ Conviction of righteousness points the sinner to Christ.

3. Judgment.

a. Judgment of sin is certain. Num 32:23; Heb 9:27

b. Judgment is of God just. Rom 3:4

c. Judgment of sin is terrible. Mar 9:43-44; Rev 14:11<sup>a</sup>; 20:14-15

d. Judgment of sin is inescapable. Joh 16:11; Rev 20:10

○ Satan's judgment is as good as done.

○ If Satan, the former covering cherub, cannot escape the judgment of God, no one can hope to escape.

e. Judgment of sin was borne on the Cross and imputed to the sinner by faith. Col 1:20; 1Pe 2:24

○ Conviction of judgment points to Christ as the One Who bore our judgment on the tree, so that we might be made righteous in Him.

B. From the soul-winner. Act 24:24-25

1. The soul-winner CANNOT produce conviction in the heart of any man.
  - a. Some have been guilty of using questionable methods to produce a profession of faith.
  - b. Serious soul-winners rely on the Holy Spirit to produce conviction in the heart of the sinner.
2. The soul-winner IDENTIFIES the points wherein the Holy Spirit will produce conviction.
  - Our witness and testimony for the Lord should always include these three important points of conviction: sin, righteousness, and judgment.

### **III. The Tools of Conviction.**

A. False tools of conviction.

1. Emotionalism — using “mood music” and sad stories, etc. to produce an emotional response from the audience.
2. Guilt-tripping — using guilt to cause someone to make a decision for the Lord; pushing an individual into a corner with no let-up.
3. Special meetings — there is nothing wrong with special meetings, but some people believe the Holy Spirit can only convict during a special meeting.

B. Biblical tools of conviction.

1. Word of God.
  - a. The Word of God will be the basis of judgment for the lost. Joh 12:47-48
  - b. The Word of God can get down into the tiny crevices of the heart to identify error and rebellion against God. Heb 4:12
  - c. The Word of God must be the centerpiece of each church meeting. 1Co 14:24
    - Prophecy = Bible preaching
2. Conscience. Joh 8:9
  - a. The conscience is fallible and fallen, thus cannot be trusted alone to produce proper conviction.
  - b. The conscience, in conjunction with the Word of God, can be a light in the heart. Pro 20:27

### **IV. The Types of Conviction.**

A. Cut. Act 5:33; 7:54

- The conviction is so strong that the convicted individual feels that they are going out of their mind, unable to bear themselves or the messenger.

B. Pricked. Act 2:37

- This conviction brings pain for the sinful state exposed in the heart and uneasiness as to their future.

### **V. The Trigger of Conviction.**

A. Negative.

- When the sinner is cut to the heart, he responds in two ways:

1. Resist the Spirit. Act 7:51; Heb 10:28-29
  2. Reject the messenger. Act 5:33; 7:51-54; 1Th 2:15-16
- B. Positive.
- When the sinner is pricked in the heart, he responds in various ways:
    1. Mourning and bitterness. Zec 12:10
    2. Trembling. Act 9:6; 16:29; 24:25
      - a. Trembling is not always a physical manifestation.
      - b. Trembling in the heart and soul regarding the sinner's offence against God and His just wrath against us.
    3. Urgency. Act 16:29-30
  - Regardless of the outward expression of conviction, the sinner will feel urgency in his heart to be made right with God, leading to the salvation of his eternal soul. Act 2:37-41
  - Sadly, the existence of these signs of Holy Spirit conviction does not always lead to repentance and salvation. Act 24:25-27

**Conclusion:**

- A. The Holy Spirit will convict the world.
- B. The Holy Spirit will convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.
- C. The Holy Spirit will convict through the avenue of His Word and the human conscience.
- D. The Holy Spirit will convict, but the sinner must choose how he will respond to that conviction.
- E. The Holy Spirit sets the stage for the salvation of the soul through the ministry of conviction.

# Ministry of the Spirit

Lesson #2  
The Regenerating Spirit  
Titus 3:5

## Introduction:

- A. On the heels of conviction by the Spirit comes regeneration by the Spirit.
  - Without conviction there can be no regeneration.
- B. Regeneration is a rebirth, a new birth in Christ; being born again.
  - **Regeneration** — the gracious quickening work of the Holy Spirit whereby He imparts the divine nature and life to the spirit of man.
- C. There is much to learn about the subject of regeneration, but the most important lesson is that regeneration is the ministry of the Holy Spirit of God.

## I. The Opposite of Regeneration.

- A. A reformation.
  - 1. “Turning over a new leaf” and “doing better” are not regeneration.
  - 2. The Scripture provides us with examples of men who attempted to “do better,” yet they were never regenerated by those good deeds. Saul of Tarsus is a prime example of this reality. Php 3:4-7
- B. A ritual.
  - 1. Some believe that regeneration is produced through a religious act, especially baptism.
  - 2. Scripture clearly expresses baptism as an illustration of regeneration. Rom 6:3-4
  - 3. Some clarification.
    - a. That which baptism pictures is what saves!
    - b. Majority of Scripture referring to salvation never mention baptism.
    - c. How can outward water remove inward sin?
- C. A reasoning.
  - 1. The Pharisees acknowledged the truth (mental assent), but they were never regenerated. Mat 23:28, 33
  - 2. The Gospel is foolishness to the intellectual, reasoning mind. 1Co 1:18-24

## II. The Act of Regeneration. Joh 1:12-13

- A. Regeneration is not self-produced. Jer 13:23
  - 1. Man has never been capable of producing life physically, much less regenerating himself spiritually.
  - 2. Man needs a new heart, a new life, which is beyond himself. Eze 18:31; Psa 51:10
- B. Regeneration is the sovereign act of God — He is not coerced or forced to regenerate anyone; His will is to regenerate all mankind who will place their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jas 1:18
- C. Regeneration is produced by the Holy Spirit. Joh 3:5-7
  - 1. Regeneration is the only requirement to enter the kingdom of God.

2. Regeneration is a must — hope to enter the kingdom cannot be placed on any other avenue.
3. Regeneration is a mystery. Joh 3:8
  - a. It cannot be seen and discerned.
  - b. It can only be recognized in its results.

### **III. The Aspects of Regeneration.**

- A. Partaking in the divine nature. 2Pe 1:4
  1. Physical birth produces a human nature.
  2. Spiritual birth (regeneration) produces the divine nature.
    - a. It is a new life. Eph 2:1, 5
    - b. It is a new creation. 2Co 5:17
- B. Partaking in a divine relationship.
  - Regeneration means:
    1. The believer is IN Christ. Joh 14:20
    2. Christ is in the believer. Joh 14:23
    3. The believer is in the family of God. Joh 1:12
    4. The believer is in the kingdom of God. Joh 3:3, 5; Col 1:13

### **IV. The Tool of Regeneration.**

- A. The Word of God. Jas 1:18; 1Pe 1:23
  - Just as with conviction, the Holy Spirit of God uses the Word of God to produce regeneration in the heart.
- B. The Word of God, then, is the essential tool to bring a lost soul to Christ.
  1. Our testimony is important, because it allows the lost to relate to something.
  2. Everything in soul-winning must point to the Word of God, and the fact that we can believe its promises concerning regeneration.

### **V. The Results of Regeneration.**

- A. A changed life. 2Co 5:17
- B. A divine sonship. Joh 1:12-13
- C. A new citizenship. Col 1:13
- D. A victory over the world. 1Jn 5:4
- E. A changed attitude toward sin. 1Jn 3:4, 9
- F. A new love. 1Jn 3:14

### **Conclusion:**

- A. The Holy Spirit does not convict the sinner and leave him in despair.



- B. The Holy Spirit regenerates the sinner who places his faith in the finished work of Christ.
- C. The Holy Spirit regenerates in a way that cannot be seen and understood by mortal man.
- D. The results of regeneration are reasons to rejoice.

# The Ministry of the Spirit

Lesson #3  
The Indwelling Spirit  
Ephesians 1:13

## Introduction:

- A. The Lord Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to believers upon His return to heavenly glory. Joh 16:7
- B. The Lord Jesus sent His Spirit to the church He had established during His earthly ministry.
  - This event occurred on the day of Pentecost.
  - This event should not be sought after today.
- C. The Spirit indwelling the believer should never be ignored or taken for granted.
- D. The Spirit indwells believers for a positive purpose.
- E. The more we learn about the Holy Spirit and His ministry, the more we rejoice in the goodness of God toward us.

## I. The Indwelling Spirit is a Fact.

- A. The Scripture teaches the regenerated possess the Spirit of God in them. 1Jn 3:24
  - The Holy Spirit is a “gift” granted to believers. Act 11:15-17
- B. The Scripture makes this statement concerning individuals. Rom 8:9; 2Ti 1:14
  - Absence of the Holy Spirit is evidence of an unsaved state. Rom 8:9; Jud 19
- C. The Scripture makes this claim concerning churches (made up of individual believers). Rom 8:9; 1Co 6:19

## II. The Indwelling Spirit is a Privilege.

- Saints of this age (from Pentecost to the Rapture) are privileged to enjoy the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- A. Old Testament saints did not enjoy the indwelling Spirit.
  - 1. The presence of the Spirit was partial, occasional, and special. Jdg 13:24-25
  - 2. The presence of the Spirit was **with** them, but His presence could be removed. Psa 51:11
    - a. Not sealed in the believer.
    - b. Not permanent in the believer.
- B. The apostles did not enjoy the indwelling Spirit during Christ’s earthly ministry. Joh 14:17
- C. The indwelling ministry of the Spirit began on the day of Pentecost. Act 2:1-4
  - 1. This was the baptism of the Holy Spirit that John the Baptist had prophesied. Mat 3:11
  - 2. This was the baptism of the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised. Act 1:4-5
  - 3. This was repeated in each of the people groups mentioned in Acts 1:8
    - a. To the Jews. Act 2:2-3
    - b. To the Samaritans. Act 8:14-17
    - c. To the Gentiles. Act 10:44-47

- We do not seek or expect the baptism of the Spirit today because that prophecy has been fulfilled.
- D. The indwelling ministry of the Spirit now begins at the moment the sinner places their faith in Christ. Eph 1:13-14
- Outside of the three instances mentioned in the book of Acts, this is how all Christians receive the indwelling of the Spirit.

### **III. The Indwelling Spirit is a “Down-Payment.”**

- A. He is the “earnest of our inheritance.” Eph 1:14; Rom 8:23; 2Co 1:22; 2Co 5:5
- B. He grants assurance to our hearts. Rom 8:16-17; 1Jn 3:24
  - 1. Assurance of the present status of our adoption. Rom 8:15
  - 2. Assurance of the future status of our redemption (the Rapture). Eph 4:30

### **IV. The Indwelling Spirit is a Comfort.**

- A. The Spirit is sent...
  - 1. By the Father. Joh 14:26
  - 2. By the Son. Joh 16:7
    - The Spirit and Christ are one. Joh 14:18
- B. The Spirit gives comfort in the absence of the Saviour. Joh 14:16-17
- C. The Spirit is needful for Christians and churches. Joh 16:7

### **V. The Indwelling Spirit is Solitary.**

- A. The Spirit is “sealed” into the heart of the believer. Eph 4:30
- B. The Spirit is not sealed into the heart of the believer along with demons, devils, or evil spirits.
  - 1. The Spirit produces liberty. 2Co 3:17
  - 2. The devil produces bondage.
    - The devil can captivate the mind of a Christian, but he cannot indwell a Christian, nor can his henchmen. 2Ti 2:26
    - The Spirit of God can never cohabitate with a demon in a Christian. 1Sa 16:14
    - The devil can indwell any lost individual he chooses, but he must flee when that individual comes to a saving knowledge of Christ.

### **Conclusion:**

- A. The indwelling Spirit of God is...
  - 1. A fact.
  - 2. A privilege.
  - 3. A down-payment.

4. A comfort.
  5. A solitary resident.
- B. This understanding will produce comfort and assurance in your heart.

# The Ministry of the Spirit

Lesson #4  
The Filling Spirit  
Ephesians 5:18-21

## Introduction:

- A. Being filled with the Spirit is a tremendous privilege and blessing for the believer.
  - This is not the same as being indwelt by the Spirit.
- B. There has been much misunderstanding about the filling of the Spirit — making it out to be a mystical or magical occurrence as the result of laying on of hands, emotional church meetings, etc.
- C. The Christian is cautioned against holding these ideas as true. Instead, he must study the Scripture to find what it really means to be filled with the Spirit.

## I. Defining the Filling of the Spirit.

- A. “Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess.” Eph 5:18
  - The individual under the control of alcohol is totally affected by drink — the way he walks, the way he talks, the way he thinks.
- B. “Be filled with the Spirit.” Eph 5:18
  - 1. The individual is encouraged to live under the control of the Spirit of God. The Spirit is to control and affect every aspect of life — the way we walk, that way we talk, the way we think.
  - 2. Being filled with the Spirit does not mean we have *more of Him*, but that He has *more of us!*
- C. The filling of the Spirit is also described as “walking in the Spirit.”
  - 1. Walking in the Spirit denies the control of the flesh. Gal 5:16, 24
  - 2. Walking in the Spirit is not something accomplished by every Christian. Gal 5:25
    - There is a choice to be made concerning Who or what will control the life of the Christian.
- Being filled with the Spirit is a matter of universal control.

## II. Demonstrating the Filling of the Spirit.

- A. John the Baptist. Luk 1:15
- B. The first church.
  - 1. Before Pentecost. Luk 9:1-2
  - 2. At Pentecost. Act 1:8; 2:4
  - 3. After Pentecost. Act 4:31
- C. The first deacons. Act 6:3
  - It becomes obvious that the filling of the Spirit is *essential* for the purposes of service and witness for Christ.

## III. Design of the Filling of the Spirit.

- A. If we are to effectively serve the Lord Jesus in this present world, we **MUST** be filled with the Spirit of God. Zec 4:6
  - 1. The filling of the Spirit enables our witness. Act 1:8; 2:4, 11
  - 2. The filling of the Spirit produces boldness in our witness for the Lord. Act 4:31
  - 3. The filling of the Spirit encourages unity in our church. Act 4:32
  - 4. The filling of the Spirit results in an increase of the Word of God. Act 6:3, 7
- The one common thread of the fulness of the Spirit is seen in the preaching of the Word of God!
- B. If we are to effectively live for the Lord Jesus we **MUST** be filled with the Spirit of God. Eph 5:18-21
  - 1. Exterior things will not control us. Eph 5:18
  - 2. Secular music will not control us. Eph 5:19
  - 3. Entitlement will not control us. Eph 5:20
  - 4. Sel-esteem will not control us. Eph 5:21
- C. If we are to effectively witness and win souls to Christ, the filling of the Spirit is essential. Act 1:8
  - 1. Because the Holy Spirit convicts men.
  - 2. Because the Holy Spirit converts (regenerates) men.
  - 3. Because the Holy Spirit changes (transforms) men.

#### **IV. Denial of the Filling of the Spirit.**

- Why are Christians not filled with the Holy Spirit?
  - A. They do not desire to be filled.
    - Many Christians have become satisfied with mediocrity — contented with a mild form of Christianity and immune to the real thing.
  - B. They have quenched the Spirit. 1Th 5:19
    - A Christian who fails to yield to the Holy Spirit in effect “throws a wet blanket” on the Spirit’s working in his life.
    - How to quench the Spirit.
      - Lack of joy. 1Th 5:16
      - Lack of prayer. 1Th 5:17
      - Lack of gratitude. 1Th 5:18
      - Lack of respect for Bible preaching. 1Th 5:20
      - Lack of testing. 1Th 5:21
      - Lack of separation. 1Th 5:22
  - C. They have grieved the Spirit. Eph 4:30
    - 1. The Holy Spirit is grieved by sin. He will not fill an unclean vessel. 2Ti 2:19-21
      - This does **NOT** mean the believer has lost his salvation for he is still sealed by the Holy Spirit.
    - 2. When a believer allows known sin to remain unconfessed, the Spirit cannot fill him.

- How to grieve the Spirit.
  - Lack of edification and grace in speech (corrupt communication). Eph 4:29
  - Lack of Christ-honouring attitude. Eph 4:31
  - Lack of kindness. Eph 4:32

## **V. Diagram of the Filling of the Spirit.**

- How does one go about being filled with the Spirit?
  - A. Ask to be filled with the Spirit. Luk 11:13
    - This is not a long process of long, agonized waiting or tarrying — God wants us to be filled with the Spirit.
  - B. Yield to the Holy Spirit.
    - 1. The Holy Spirit will lay His claims on us through the Word of God.
      - He will convict us of sin.
        - a. To be filled, confess all known sin. Pro 28:13
        - b. To be filled, forsake all known sin. Pro 28:13
    - 2. The enemy to being filled with the Spirit is the flesh (our sin nature). Gal 5:16-17, 24; Jas 4:5
    - 3. The battle for spiritual victory is waged in the mind. Pro 23:7
      - a. The carnal mind allows the flesh to control the life. Rom 8:6-8; 1Co 3:1-4
      - b. The worldly mind allows the world to control the life. Rom 12:2; 1Co 3:18-19
      - c. The spiritual mind allows the Word of God to control the life. Heb 11:6
- Asking to be filled with the Spirit without yielding to the Spirit will result in failure to be filled with the Spirit.

## **Conclusion:**

- Remember, the question is not, *“How much do I have of Him?”* but *“How much does He have of me?”*
- *“Have I yielded myself fully to the control of the Holy Spirit?”*

# Ministry of the Spirit

Lesson #5  
The Leading Spirit  
Joh 16:13

## Introduction:

- A. In the absence of the physical presence of Christ on earth, the Holy Spirit is given to the believer to fill a leadership role in his life.
  - 1. Some see the Spirit as a “rubber stamp” to approve whatever the believer chooses to do.
  - 2. The truth is that the Spirit of God, as part of the Godhead, is worthy of our attention and submission.
- B. The Christian must learn to sense and surrender to the leadership of the Holy Spirit...
  - 1. For his spiritual study and growth.
  - 2. For his service to the Lord.

## I. The Prerequisite.

- To enjoy the leadership of the Spirit, two things are required:
  - A. Salvation.
    - The lost individual will *never* be led by the Spirit, except to be led to repentance and faith in Christ — conviction. 1Co 2:14
  - B. Surrender.
    - The believer must be filled with the Spirit (fully yielded to the Spirit) before the believer can be led by the Spirit.
      - A backslider is a carnal Christian who is not filled with the Spirit and rebels against the leadership of the Spirit.

## II. The Plan.

- A. The Spirit leads in study. Joh 16:13; Eph 1:17; 1Jn 2:20, 27
  - 1. He searches out the things of God. Joh 16:13; 1Co 2:10-11
  - 2. He speaks to us through the Scripture. Rev 2:7; Joh 14:26; 16:13
    - a. He does not speak on His own authority.
    - b. He does not emphasize Himself.
  - 3. He aids our study.
    - a. This ministry of the Spirit does not relieve the Christian of the duty to study. 2Ti 2:15
      - The Christian should prayerfully seek the leadership of the Spirit each time he opens his Bible. Jer 33:3
    - b. This ministry of the Spirit is unavailable to the lost, even if they are pious and religious. 1Co 2:14
      - This explains why people have so many ideas about God and the Bible; they do not have the Holy Spirit leading them into all truth.
- B. The Spirit leads in service. Rom 8:14
  - Jesus set the example of following the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Mat 4:1



- The child of God should seek the leadership of the Spirit. Rom 8:14
  1. He calls and commissions. Act 13:1-4
    - a. Barnabas and Saul were faithfully serving the Lord in the church at Antioch. Act 13:1
    - b. Barnabas and Saul were selected to carry out a different work in a different place. Act 13:2
  2. He guides.
    - a. He directs. Act 8:29
    - b. He denies. Act 16:6-7
  3. He shows what to speak in times of confrontation. Luk 12:12
  4. He uses various methods to lead the children of God.
    - a. Through the Word of God. Psa 119:105
      - The Spirit's leadership will ALWAYS coincide with the Word of God.
    - b. Through an impression on the heart. Mar 6:34
    - c. Through wise counsel. Pro 11:14
    - d. Through circumstances. Gen 50:20

### **III. The Product.**

- What happens when a Christian allows the Spirit to lead in his life?
  - A. Identification.
    1. As the Son of God. Luk 4:1
    2. As a son of God. Rom 8:14; 1Jn 3:24
  - B. Freedom. Rom 8:1; Gal 5:18
  - C. Focus.
    1. On the leadership of the Spirit. Rom 8:5
    2. On Christ. 1Co 12:3
  - D. Power.
    1. The strength of Christ. Luk 4:14
    2. The signs of an apostle. Rom 15:19
    3. The speech of the preacher. 1Co 2:4
    4. The sword of the soldier. Eph 6:17
  - E. Prayer. Rom 15:30
  - F. Fellowship. Php 2:1
  - G. Fruit. Gal 5:22-23; 6:8; Eph 5:9
  - H. Sanctification. 2Th 2:13; 1Pe 1:2
  - I. Transformation. 2Co 3:18
  - J. Unity in the church. Eph 4:3

K. Anticipation. Rom 8:23

**Conclusion:**

- A. It is the privilege of every born-again Christian to have the Spirit of God dwelling in him and leading him.
  - 1. In his study of God's Word.
  - 2. In his service for the Lord Jesus.
- B. The leadership of the Spirit produces wonderful fruit in the Christian's life; fruit that we should display and enjoy.

# Ministry of the Spirit

Lesson #6  
The Gifting Spirit  
1 Corinthians 12:4-7

## Introduction:

- A. In **1896**, a Southern Baptist by the name of Richard Spurling declared that the restoration of the first century A.D. spiritual gifts — including the gifts of tongues and healing — had occurred at a revival meeting in North Carolina. In **1901**, students of Charles Parham at the Bethel Bible College, Topeka, Kansas, announced they had received "the baptism" and had spoken in tongues. In **1907**, William Seymour, a black Nazarene preacher, founded what was to become the world famous "Azusa Street Revival" in Los Angeles, California.
- B. Thus began the *Pentecostal Movement*: rooted in the "holiness movement," issuing in a number of disunited denominations, and characterized by Arminian theology, sensationalism, and the "gifts" of tongues and healing.
- C. This movement found little acceptance among the mainline denominations. By the 1950s the Pentecostal Movement was in a state of decline, until the "Full Gospel Business Men's Association" was formed. This association used the tactics of infiltrating the established mainline denominations, promoting their views on the "gifts," and financing and editorializing what was, in the 1960s and 1970s, to explode into the *Charismatic Movement*.
- D. Today, every major denomination in Christendom is deeply involved in this movement. Consequently there is a great focus on the ministry of the Holy Spirit, especially in the area of spiritual gifts today.
- E. The unhealthy emphasis on the spiritual gifts by Pentecostals and Charismatics — and the influence of this emphasis — makes it necessary for us to learn what the Scripture teaches on the subject. This will ground us in the truth and keep us from being swayed by error in faith or practice.

## I. The Certainty of Spiritual Gifts.

- A. Spiritual gifts are given by the Spirit of God. 1Co 12:11
  - 1. Spiritual gifts are not the result of becoming a better Christian, but according to the will of God.
    - a. The possession of a spiritual gift does not equate spiritual maturity.
    - b. The church at Corinth possessed spiritual gifts yet they were described as "babes" and "carnal." 1Co 3:1
  - 2. Since these gifts are given according to the will of God, there is no need to seek or pray for a particular gift.
- B. Spiritual gifts are God-given abilities to serve the Lord *in the church*. 1Co 12:4, 7
- C. Spiritual gifts are granted to every church member.
  - 1. The spiritual gift is received at the moment of salvation. 1Co 12:7
  - 2. Not every member possesses the same spiritual gift. 1Co 12:29-30
- D. Spiritual gifts have ONE purpose — *to edify a church*. 1Co 14:12
- E. Spiritual gifts — having some spiritual experience — *never* take precedence over the Scripture. Isa 8:20

## II. The Catalog of Spiritual Gifts.

- A. Bible lists gifts of the Spirit.
  - 1. Wisdom. 1Co 12:8

2. Knowledge. 1Co 12:8
  3. Faith. 1Co 12:9
  4. Healing. 1Co 12:9, 28
  5. Miracles. 1Co 12:10, 28
  6. Prophecy. 1Co 12:10; Rom 12:6; 1Pe 4:11
  7. Discernment (supernatural knowledge). 1Co 12:10
  8. Tongues. 1Co 12:10, 28
  9. Interpretation of tongues. 1Co 12:10
  10. Helps. 1Co 12:28
  11. Governments (ruling). 1Co 12:28; Rom 12:8
  12. Ministry - Rom 12:7; 1Pe 4:11
  13. Teaching. Rom 12:7
  14. Exhortation - Rom 12:8
  15. Giving. Rom 12:8
  16. Mercy. Rom 12:8
- B. Bible lists men gifted by the Spirit. Eph 4:11
- These men are gifted to a New Testament church.
    1. Apostles.
      - a. The office of apostle has ceased.
      - b. The office of apostle had requirements.
        - 1) The apostle had SEEN the Lord Jesus Christ. Act 1:22
        - 2) The apostle had been audibly called to be an apostle by the Lord Jesus Christ. Mat 10:1-4; Rom 1:1-5
        - 3) The apostle has manifested the signs of an apostle. Mar 16:17-20
    2. Prophets.
      - a. A prophet is one who foretold future events by the revelation of the Spirit.
      - b. The office of prophet has ceased.
  - While the offices of *apostle* and *prophet* have ceased, we are still affected and benefitted by their ministries through the Scripture they wrote under the inspiration of the Spirit of God.
    3. Evangelists — One who establishes New Testament churches through Gospel preaching (a missionary). Act 8:1-12; 21:8
    4. Pastors and teachers — The shepherd of a flock (church) whose purpose is to build up and equip that church through preaching and teaching all the counsel of God. Act 20:27-28

### **III. The Continuance of the Spiritual Gifts.**

- Are all the spiritual gifts available today?
- The Bible teaches that *some* spiritual gifts were temporary. 1Co 13:8-10

○ The spiritual gifts can be grouped into two categories:

A. Sign gifts.

1. Their purpose.

- a. To accredit God's man. Act 2:22; 2Co 12:11-12
- b. To accredit God's message. Mar 16:20; Act 4:29-30

2. Their provision.

- a. Sign gifts were provided for the benefit of the Jew. 1Co 1:22
- b. Sign gifts were performed when...

- 1) Jews were present.
- 2) An apostle was present.

3. Their profile. Mar 16:17-18

- a. This Scripture lists four sign gifts: casting out devils, speaking in tongues, taking up deadly serpents (miracles), and healing.
- b. The Scripture teaches us...
  - 1) This prophecy of the Lord has been fulfilled in the book of Acts. Act 16:18; 2:4; 28:3-6; 3:6-8
  - 2) Since this prophecy has been fulfilled, there is no need to seek further fulfillment. We may safely eliminate these gifts from the list of spiritual gifts.

4. Their passing.

- a. Tongues is mentioned as a temporary spiritual gift. 1Co 13:8
  - Since tongues is one of the sign gifts, we can understand that **all** the sign gifts were temporary.
- b. Sign gifts were specifically for the nation of Israel. 1Co 1:22
- c. Sign gifts would only be seen when Israel was in its own land. Mic 7:15
- d. The sign gift of tongues was a warning of imminent danger of judgment on Israel. Deu 28:49, 64; Jer 5:15-16
- e. This judgment fell on Israel when Jerusalem fell to the Roman armies in 70 A.D. and the nation was dispersed.
- f. There is **no** Biblical record of **any** sign gift after this date. When the sign was fulfilled, the sign ceased.

5. Their peril.

- a. There is danger in seeking after the sign gifts.
  - 1) Seeking after the sign gifts ignores the teaching of Scripture about their purpose and end.
  - 2) Seeking after sign gifts displays a carnal desire to "show off" some spiritual "super power."
  - 3) Seeking after sign gifts displays a lack of desire to edify the church. 1Co 14:3-4
    - a) Spiritual gifts are to aid our service in the church.
    - b) Spiritual gifts are to edify (build up) the church.
- b. Satan is able to produce signs and wonders. 2Co 11:13-15; 2Th 2:9

B. Serving gifts.

○ Romans 12 present seven serving gifts which are operational in the Lord's churches today.

1. Prophecy. Rom 12:6
    - a. Prophecy is two-fold: foretelling and forth-telling (preaching)
    - b. The gift of *predictive* prophecy (foretelling) has ceased. 1Co 13:8
    - c. The gift of *proclamative* prophecy (forth-telling) remains.
  2. Ministry. Rom 12:7
    - a. The gift of ministry is the motivation to demonstrate love by helping and serving others through meeting physical and practical needs.
    - b. It is a God-given ability to detect needs within a congregation and to do something positive to meet them.
  3. Teaching. Rom 12:7
    - a. The gift of teaching is the motivation to present the truth of God's Word clearly and precisely.
    - b. It is the God-given ability to engage in research and detailed study of the Word of God, and to both accumulate and categorize knowledge.
  4. Exhortation. Rom 12:8
    - a. The gift of exhortation is the motivation to encourage, stimulate, and prompt others in the church to spiritual growth and experience.
    - b. It is the God-given ability to get alongside other Christians with the Word of God and encourage them to pursue spiritual growth and a Scriptural course of conduct.
  5. Giving. Rom 12:8
    - a. The gift of giving is the motivation to gain assets and share them with others in and for the work of the Lord.
    - b. It is the God-given ability to give, to be able to make quick decisions regarding the immediate needs of others, and to entrust personal assets to others for the furtherance of their spiritual ministry.
  6. Ruling. Rom 12:8
    - a. The gift of ruling is the motivation to coordinate and lead the activities of others in the accomplishment of common goals.
    - b. It is the God-given ability to lead, to identify objectives, and to help those involved in a task to accomplish them.
  7. Mercy. Rom 12:8
    - a. The gift of mercy is the motivation to identify with and share in the sufferings and joys of others as a comforter.
    - b. It is the God-given ability to empathize with the misfortunes and miseries of others, to mentally and emotionally relate to their needs, and be able to bring comfort through the Word of God.
- **Every** church member is expected to engage in all the above activities, even if that is not the spiritual gift they have received.
- Declaring Truth. Eph 4:15<sup>a</sup>
  - Serving. Gal 5:13<sup>e</sup>; Col 3:23-24
  - Teaching. Col 3:16<sup>b</sup>
  - Exhorting. Heb 3:13; 10:25
  - Giving. Mat 10:8<sup>e</sup>; Luke 6:38

- Ruling. Pro 16:32; 17:2
- Mercy. Luk 10:37; Gal 6:2; Col 3:12

**Conclusion:**

- A. The Spirit of God has gifted every church member for the benefit of the church as a whole.
  - 1. It is needful for church members to learn what is their spiritual gift.
  - 2. It is needful for church members to use their spiritual gifts to edify (build up) the church in which they are members.
- B. The Spirit of God gave certain gifts as a temporary sign to Israel of the truth of the Gospel message.
  - 1. Since the completion of the written Word of God, these sign gifts are no longer in effect and should not be sought.
  - 2. Satan is well able to deceive with his “sign gifts,” making it dangerous to pursue these sign gifts.