

Elective: “The Holy Spirit and His Gifts”

Who is the Holy Spirit?

- In the last 120 years, there has been a *worldwide outpouring* of the Holy Spirit
- **Pentecostalism** – the “marriage certificate” analogy
- **The Person of the Holy Spirit**
He is God: A person to be worshipped, loved and obeyed (Matt 28:19)
He is sensitive: He can be pleased, resisted, grieved and quenched (Luke 10:21; Acts 7:51; Eph 4:30; 1 Thess 5:19). The Father and the Son are “jealous” and “protective” of the Spirit (James 4:5; Mat 12:31-32; Is 63:10)
He is with us: Jesus ascended to receive the Spirit from the Father and release him on the Church. We live in the age of Holy Spirit (Acts 2:33; John 7:37-38).
- **Misunderstandings and “weirdness”:** keep us from fully embracing the Spirit. Don't let people or the enemy rob you of what Jesus purchased for the church.
- **Develop a relationship with the Holy Spirit:** Jesus modeled and taught us to seek and receive the Spirit (Luke 11:5-13). The Apostles and the early church followed his pattern.
- **How to receive more of the Holy Spirit:**
Faith: A continuous flow of the Spirit is available to us, by grace, through faith in Christ (John 7:37-38). Be cross-focused and grace-oriented.
Hunger: ask, seek, knock, persistence (Luke 11:5-13)
Embrace weakness: He comes to us in our need (Rom 8:26; 2 Cor 12:9)
Yielding control: let him do whatever he wants, surrender (“bear hug” example)
Waiting on God: Stillness, quietness, weakness, need, hunger

Who are you?

- **You are supernatural by birth:** redeemed, adopted as sons (like Jesus, we call God “Abba” Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6), regenerated (new nature John 3:6), and indwelt by the Spirit (Rom 8:9).
- **You are supernatural by commission:** We are given “all authority” by Christ (Matt 28:18-20; Luke 9:1; 10:19). We are the intersection of heaven and earth; God's vice-regents restored through the second Adam.

What are spiritual gifts?

- **Gift Lists:** 1 Cor 12: 8-10 (9 “manifestation” gifts), Romans 12:6-8 (“motivation” gifts), 1 Eph 4:11 (“ascension” gifts), Cor 12:28 (“mixed” list)
- **Gifts:** signify Christ's ascension and celebrate Christ's victory (Eph 4:7-8; Acts 2:33)
- **Essential for maturity and mission:** (Eph 2:19-22, Eph 4:11-13)
Maturity is Christ-likeness: Christ-like love + Christ-like wisdom + Christ-like power
- **Co-laboring with God** (1 Cor 3:9): Hand-in-glove (Luke 24:49; Luke 11:20)

Practical details about spiritual gifts:

- They operate by grace (“*charis*” root word). They are “concrete expressions of grace” from

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the "river of grace" (James Dunn)

- They should be motivated by love (1 Cor 13; 1 Cor 14:12).
- They operate THROUGH faith – Romans 12:6-8 "in proportion to your faith" – growing in the gift involves growing in faith.
- They are "delicate nuances in our relationship with God" (Russell Spittler)
- They are not automatic – pursue it, value it, train yourself, practice it, seek impartation and increase (1 Cor 12: 31 ;1 Cor 14:1, 31; 2 Tim 1:6-7;1 Tim 4:11-15)
- They are under the sovereignty of the Spirit (1 Cor 12:11): both "distributed" and "resident". Eph 4:11 "office gifts" imply great accuracy, faith, consistency combined with the ability to equip and multiply (impart) that gifting in the church (see Acts 21:8-10)
- They are "fuzzy", not clearly defined: ex. word of wisdom (Pastoral: "applying spiritual truth", word of knowledge (Teaching: "explaining spiritual truth")

Focus on Prophecy and Healing

- Why? Prophecy (most discussed gift) and Healing (most described gift)
- They are "identity" gifts ("they will prophesy" Acts 2:17-18; "Are you the one?" Luke 7:19,22)
- They can be seen as gift "clumps" in 1 Cor 12.

Prophecy..

- builds up (imparts strength), stirs up (imparts courage) and cheers up (imparts joy, peace) (1 Cor 14:3)
- enhances other gifts (John 4:17-18)
- is personal in scope, subjective, timely ("a word from God") vs. general scope, objective truth, timeless ("The Word of God")
- reveals God's indwelling presence (1 Cor 14:24-25)
- can be break down to: Revelation, Interpretation, Application
- is a "pool", with a "shallow end" and a "deep end"
- is to be judged but not despised (1 Thess 5:19-21; 1 Cor 14:29)

Healing..

- is part of the saving work of Christ: usage of "sozo" Luke 7:50; Luke 8:36; Luke 8:48; Luke 8:50. "Jesus is a soter who forgives, delivers, heals and resurrects, both temporally and eternally" (Mike Brown)
- is a sign of Yahweh's "Covenant Blessing" (Ex 15:26), and of the messianic age(Is 35:5-6)
- is an expression of love: compassion/warfare (Mat 9:35-27; Mat 14:14)
- 5 Step healing model (email me!)

Lab Time