

The Manifestations of the Holy Spirit

Last week I spoke on the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is the outward evidence of the reality of God's work in our lives. It is by this fruit that we are known to the world around us! Today I want to speak to you about God's desire to work through us by His Spirit.

1 Cor. 12:1-11 Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. ²You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. ³Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

1.) The manifestation of the Spirit.

φανερωσι phanerosis = Manifestation, to reveal. Akin to phaneros, open to sight, visible, manifest (root phan to shine forth). A gift is a supernatural capacity or power bestowed on a Christian by the Holy Spirit to enable him to visibly demonstrate the love and power of God. These gifts are not to be confused with natural abilities or thought of as permanent possessions. They are supernatural and often sudden manifestations of the Spirit Himself.

2.) For the common good and profit of all.

1 Cor. 12:7 (Amp.) But to each one is given the manifestation of the (Holy) Spirit--that is, the evidence, the spiritual illumination of the Spirit--for good and profit.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are not for mere display. They are not for personal exaltation or glorification! They are: "(1) For the welfare of the Church. (2) For the welfare of the individual members. (3) For the welfare of the world. . . . (4) For the glory of God. This is the ultimate object. . . all her (the Church) gifts and graces should rebound to the Divine honor and glory." —*Pulpit. Commentary. Vol. 19 p. 411*

"The witness of the corporate life of the church was intended to be a supernatural witness. Its central point was testimony to a risen Christ who had ascended to the Father's right hand in heaven, but still continued working with and by His people . . . The effective power for such witnessing was to be the Holy Spirit coming upon believers. Arising out of these things can be seen the direct purpose of spiritual gifts. They were to provide a spiritual capacity far mightier than the finest natural abilities could ever supply; and, deeper still, they were to provide the supernatural basis for a supernatural order of ministry." *Discovering Spiritual Gifts* by Donald Gee, p.15

3.) The nine manifest gifts of the Spirit.

1 Cor. 12:8 To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

The nine gifts of the Holy Spirit fall into three categories; (1) vocal gifts: tongues, interpretation and prophecy, (2) power gifts: faith, healing and miracles, (3) and knowing gifts: word of wisdom, word of knowledge and discerning of spirits. Historical record and Biblical evidence both support that all of the gifts are for the church today.

4.) God wants to manifest His power through you!

Does God want to use you? The Bible says to eagerly desire, earnestly seek the gifts. In this way we make ourselves available for God's use to bring blessing to each other, the Church, and the world around us.

1 Cor. 12:31 But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.

1 Cor. 14:1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.

The early church had received the promise of the Father, the baptism of the Spirit! They went out from city to city declaring the gospel in its fullness with demonstration and the power of the Spirit. They were turning the know world upside down. People were experiencing a relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior. The Church was growing by the thousands! How easy it would have been to build on momentum, human effort, and the reputation of a handful of well know men.

The world still needs to see a church empowered not by human effort but by the supernatural, visible power and working of the Holy Spirit. We are to be that church!

5.) Have you received the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Luke 24:49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Acts 1:4-5 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak

about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Acts 19:1-7 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ²and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. ⁴Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. ⁷There were about twelve men in all.

If you have not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit since becoming a Christian ask God to give you this promised blessing. You may want to ask for prayer and the laying on of hands (Acts 8:14-19). If you would like more information on this subject please let me know. I would be glad to speak and pray with you.