

DR. ALVIN'S PUBLICATIONS

LIFE AND MINISTRY IN THE SPIRIT

CLASS NOTES OF DR. JAY TAYLOR



TH 303 LIFE AND MINISTRY IN THE SPIRIT

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TH 303 LIFE AND MINISTRY IN THE SPIRIT

Class Lecture Notes

I. An Overview of the Spirit-filled New Testament Church

A. Characteristics of the Spirit-filled NT Church (2:42-47)

ACTS

* The church was walking in the Spirit and had the following 10 traits:

1. They were devoted to learning the word (2:42)
2. They were devoted to fellowship (2:42) — *κοινωνία* = to have in common
3. They were devoted to worship (2:42; 46-47)
4. They were devoted to prayer (2:42)
 - a. Prayer was a common feature of the church's worship and lifestyle.
 - b. Prayer was the vehicle by which the Holy Spirit was poured out.
 - c. Prayer was the vehicle for miracles, signs and wonders.
 - d. Prayer was the vehicle for divine guidance.
 - e. Prayer was a means of confirming God's choice of leadership.
 - f. Prayer was a means of ordaining/commissioning God's choice of leadership.
 - g. Prayer was the church's response to persecution and opposition.

5. **They were a church that experienced the miraculous (2:43)**
6. **They were a united church (2:44).**
7. **They were a sharing church (2:45)**
8. **They were a joyful church (2:46)**
9. **They found favor in the eyes of the people (2:47)**
10. **They were a growing church (2:48)**
11. **They were a missions and evangelism oriented church**
 - a. The leading of the Spirit was sought and received in their missionary efforts.
 - b. God worked through signs & wonders as a means of effective evangelization.
 - c. They adapted their evangelistic approach to suit their audience.
 - d. The apostles targeted key locations.
 - e. The apostles majored on establishing and organizing local churches.
 - f. They grounded new believers in the word of God.
 - g. Evangelism does not have to bypass the intellect.

II. Overview of the Nature of the Holy Spirit

A. The Divinity of the Holy Spirit

1. Divine _____ are ascribed to Him.

- a. The Holy Spirit is assigned deistic names by the biblical writers.
- b. The Holy Spirit is seen in Scripture as distinct from the Father and the Son.
- c. The Holy Spirit is linked in Scripture with the Father & the Son.
- d. The Holy Spirit is the third member of the Godhead.

(1) What is the Trinity?

(2) Incorrect view of the Trinity

(3) Proper understanding of Trinity

(a)

(b)

(c)

(4) Analogies to help explain Trinity

2. Divine _____ are ascribed to Him

- a. Eternal
- b. Omnipresent
- c. Omnipotent
- d. Omniscient
- e. Life
- f. Truth
- g. Holiness

3. Divine _____ are ascribed to Him

- a. Creation
- b. Casting Out Demons
- c. Convicting of Sin
- d. Regeneration
- e. Resurrection
- f. Inspiration

4. The NT quotes the OT and equates God's words with the Spirit Speaking

B. The Personhood of the Holy Spirit

1. Reasons why there is confusion over His personhood.

- a. The Holy Spirit is the least mentioned of the Godhead in the biblical accounts
- b. The very word "Spirit" is a problem.
- c. Biblical languages are problematic.
- d. The HS is associated in Scripture w/power, which is an impersonal concept.
- e. The Bible uses symbols to refer to the HS which are impersonal and inanimate.

2. Jesus referred to His Personhood

3. Characteristics of personality are ascribed to Him.

* *The three essential elements of personality are ascribed to the Spirit.*

- a. Mind
- b. Will
- c. Emotion

4. Personal acts are performed by Him.

* *The Holy Spirit can be involved in the following activities. He...*

- a. 1 Cor. 12:11
- b. Jn. 16:13
- c. Jn. 14:26
- d. Rom. 8:16; Jn. 15:26; Acts 1:8
- e. Rom. 8:26
- f. Rev. 2:7a
- g. Jn. 16:8
- h. 1 Cor. 2:10b
- i. Acts 1:8
- j. Jn. 16:13; Acts 16: 6-7
- k. Jn. 16:14
- l. Acts 13:2

5. Personal treatment can be given Him.

* *The Holy Spirit can be...*

- a. Acts 5:3
- b. Acts 5:9
- c. Eph. 4:30
- d. 1 Thess. 5:19
- e. Acts 7:
- f. Heb. 10:29
- g. Matt. 12:31-32; Mark 3:28-29; Luke 12:10

C. The names of the Holy Spirit

1. The Spirit: 1 Cor. 12:7-8
2. The Spirit of the Lord: Lk. 4:18
3. The Spirit of Christ: Rom. 8:9
4. The Spirit of His son (Gal. 4:6)
5. The Spirit of God (2 Cor. 3:3; Rom. 8:9)
6. The Holy Spirit/Ghost (Acts 2:4)
7. Comforter/Counselor: Jn. 14:26
8. The Holy Spirit of Promise: Eph. 1:13b; Gal. 3:14
9. The Promise of the Father: Lk. 24:49
10. The Spirit of Truth: Jn. 14:17; 15:26; 16:13
11. The Spirit of Grace: Heb. 10:29; Zech 12:10a
12. The Spirit of Life: Rom. 8:2
13. The Spirit of Adoption: Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:5
14. The Eternal Spirit: Heb. 9:14
15. The Spirit of Glory: I Pet. 4:14
16. The Spirit of wisdom and revelation: Eph. 1:17
17. Spirit of Holiness: Rom. 1:4
18. Good Spirit: Ps. 143:10
19. Spirit of your Father: Matt. 10:20

D. The Symbols of the Holy Spirit

* Symbols are an emblem or sign representing something else.

* In Scripture, several symbols are used to describe the nature and work of the Spirit.

1. **Fire**

2. **Wind**

3. **Water**

4. **Wine**

5. **Dove**

6. **Oil**

7. **The Seal**

What does this seal mean?

What does the earnest or deposit of the Spirit mean?

III. Overview of the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Believer

A. Prior to Salvation

1. He Convicts of Sin

B. At Conversion

1. He is involved in our salvation

a. Regeneration

b. Adoption

c. Spirit Indwelling

d. Witness of the Spirit

2. He is involved in our sanctification

a. Objective sanctification

b. Subjective sanctification

C. Following Conversion

1. He baptizes with power for Christian life and ministry

2. He works to bring us to maturity (fruit)

3. He guides our ethics

4. He gives spiritual gifts for ministry

5. He assists in giving us guidance

6. He assists in our prayer

7. He assists in witnessing

8. He assists in church life

D. Sins against the Holy Spirit

1. Grieving the Holy Spirit

2. Quenching the Holy Spirit

3. Humiliating the Holy Spirit

4. Lying to the Holy Spirit

5. Blaspheming the Holy Spirit

IV. Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Preliminary Definition:

The "baptism in the Spirit" is an experience in God in which one knows more fully the presence of the Holy Spirit in dominating and controlling his/her life.

A. Scriptural Background of the "Baptism in the Spirit"

1. A new work of the Spirit was promised in the Old Testament

1. The OT looked forward to (anticipated) the coming of the Holy Spirit.
2. The coming Messianic age was viewed as a time of great spiritual power.
3. Consider the following references:
 - a. Isa. 42:1 and 61:1
 - b. Ezek. 36:22-32 (esp. vs. 26-27)
 - c. Isa. 44:3
 - d. Isa. 32:15
 - e. Joel 2:28-29

2. The Baptism in the Spirit was promised in the Gospels

1. It was prophesied by John the Baptist

* Matt. 3:11; John 1:33

2. Jesus manifested the Spirit in His ministry.

- a. The Spirit descended on Him at His baptism (Luke 3:21).
- b. He ministered in the power of the Spirit (Acts 10:38; Mt. 12:28; Lk 10:21)

3. Jesus promised that He would be sending the Holy Spirit.

* See Luke 24:49; John 15:26; 20:22; Acts 1:4-8.

* Purposes for Jesus sending the Spirit:

- a. The Spirit was to take Jesus' place here on earth after He left (John 16:7).
- b. The Spirit was to be a comforter/counselor (Jn. 14:16-17, 26).
- c. The Spirit was to be a teacher who'll guide us into truth (Jn 14:26; 16:13).
- d. The Spirit was to empower them for witness.

3. It was Demonstrated in the Acts of the Apostles and Early Church

1. It was experienced by the apostles and early church (Acts 2:1-4; 16, 33, 38-39)
2. It was encouraged by the apostles and early church.
 - a. Acts 8:14-17
 - b. Acts 9:17-19
 - c. Acts 19:1-6
 - d. Acts 11:15-18

4. It was Assumed in the Epistles

1. The apostle Paul makes reference to it, assuming its presence.
2. Consider the following references: Eph. 5:18; 1 Thess. 5:19-20; 1 Cor. 14:18,39

B. Scriptural Terminology of the "Baptism in the Spirit"

1. "Baptized with (in) the Holy Spirit"

1. References

- * In Matt. 3:11--John the Baptist prophesied the "baptism with the Holy Spirit"
- * In Acts 1:5--Luke says "in a few days you will be baptized with the HS"
- * In Acts 11:16--Peter says regarding the coming of the Spirit upon Gentiles: "but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit"

2. Definition of Baptized

- a. Literal meaning of "*Baptidzo*"
- b. Symbolic imagery of Spirit "baptism"

2. "Clothed with power from on high"

- * In Luke 24:49

3. "Spirit comes upon"

- * See Acts 1:8a; 8:16; 10:44; 11:15; 19:6

4. "Holy Spirit poured out"

- * See Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:17-18; 10:45

5. "Receive(d) the Holy Spirit"

- * See Acts 2:38b; 8:15-19; 10:47b; 11:15; 19:1b-3

6. "Filled with the Holy Spirit"

- * See Acts 2:4; 4:8a; 4:31b; 9:17

7. "Full of the Holy Spirit"

- * See Acts 6:3 (deacons); 6:5 and 7:55 (Stephen); 11:23 (Barnabas)

C. When does this experience of the baptism occur?

1. John 20:21-22: Jesus commissions His disciples and promises the Spirit
2. Acts 1:4-8: Jesus told His disciples to wait for the gift of the Father
3. Acts 8:12-16: Peter and John pray for Samaritan converts to receive
4. Acts 19:1-6: Paul prays with Ephesian believers to receive
5. Acts 10:36-46: Those who heard the message received the Spirit
6. Acts 9:17-18: Paul Received 3 Days After His Conversion
7. John 7:38-39: Jesus Promised the Spirit to Believers

D. The Initial Evidence of the Baptism

1. Acts 2:4: Day of Pentecost
2. Acts 10:44-48: Cornelius' House (Gentiles)
3. Acts 19:1-7: The Believers' in Ephesus Reception of the Spirit
4. Acts 8:14-19: The Samaritan Converts' Reception of the Spirit
5. Acts 9:17-18: Paul's Reception of the Spirit

E. Why Tongues?

** Here are 5 possible reasons why God would have chosen tongues.*

1. It is an external observable evidence.
2. It is a uniform evidence.
3. It is a symbol of the Holy Spirit's control in one's life.
 1. **Body:** James 3:2-5
 2. **Mind/will:** 1 Cor. 14:14-15
 3. **Spirit:** 1 Cor. 14:14
4. Tongues signify the universal nature of the Gospel.
5. Tongues are symbolic of the purpose of Spirit baptism.

F. Reasons for Seeking the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

1. It Provides motivation and power for Christian service/witness (Acts 1:8)
2. It opens a new avenue of prayer and praise (1 Cor. 14:2)
3. It edifies the believer (1 Cor. 14:4)
4. It helps provide power to overcome sin & weaknesses (Rom. 8:26)
5. God desires every believer to speak in tongues (1 Cor. 14:5)

V. The Fruit of the Spirit

A. Christians are to bear fruit

1. Christians have a responsibility to bear good fruit

- a. The Holy Spirit engrafts us into the vine (John 15:2-8).
- b. The branches must bear fruit (John 15:5,8)
- c. God eliminates branches that do not bear fruit (John 15:2)
- d. God prunes back branches that do bear fruit (John 15:2)

2. What is the fruit of the Spirit?

- a. The "fruit of Spirit" are virtues which grow in a Christian's life as he/she matures spiritually.
- b. "Fruit" is in the singular form, which stresses that these qualities are a unity.
- c. Unlike the gifts, the fruit of the Spirit are all to be found in all Christians.

3. Christians face an internal conflict

B. Examination of the fruit listed in Galatians 5:22-23.

** Note: The first three speak of Christian habits of mind, directed God-ward*

1. Love (*agape*)

- * The virtue of brotherly sacrificial love which seeks the good of others.
- * Agape (divine) love is
 - * unmerited (Rom. 5:8)
 - * transforming (Rom. 5:5)
 - * great (Eph. 2:4)
 - * Unchangeable (Rom. 8:35-39)

2. Joy (*chara*)

- * The virtue in the Christian life corresponding to happiness in the secular world, but happiness depends on the circumstances and joy does not.
- * Deep gladness is born of a personal relationship to God, which includes a sense of our fulfilling His will.

3. Peace (*eirene*)

- * A tranquillity of mind, or spiritual well-being, based on forgiveness.
- * This refers to the state of being at peace with God (Rom. 5:1) which results in two things:
 - * Peace of mind (Phil. 4:6,7)
 - * Peace between people

* *Note: The next 3 deal with Christians in relationship to people (social virtues)*

4. Patience (*makrothumia*)

- * To be steadfast in the endurance of suffering (long-suffering).
- * It refers to the quality of putting up with others, even when one is severely tried.

5. Kindness (*chrestotes*)

- * Behaving toward others as God has behaved toward us.

6. Goodness (*agathosune*)

- * Refers to the generosity that springs from kindness.
- * While similar to kindness, it is a more active term, often directed toward that which does not merit the action.

* *Note: The last three are related to how a Christian is to be in him/herself.*

7. Faithfulness (*pistis*)

- * Faithfulness refers to being a person upon whom others can rely.
- * It speaks of trustworthiness or reliability.

8. Gentleness (*prautes*)

- * Gentleness refers to mildness or meekness.
- * Remember, meekness is not weakness; rather, it is power under control.

9. Self Control (*enkrateia*)

- * The virtue of one who masters his/her desires and passions, especially sensual appetites.

VI. The Gifts of the Spirit

A. Who receives spiritual gifts and why?

1. Who receives spiritual gifts?

* See Eph. 4:7; Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:7; 1 Pet. 4:10.

2. Why are spiritual gifts given?

3. How are these gifts to operate?

4. How many different gifts are there?

B. Manifestation Gifts (Spontaneous)

1. Gifts of Revelation

a. Word of Knowledge (1 Cor. 12:8)

(1) Definition

* A supernaturally given word of information (facts) to provide data for God's people in specific times of need.

(2) What it is not

- * It is not an amplification of human knowledge
- * It is not acquired by study or natural ability
- * It is not a gradual accumulation of knowledge of God's ways/acts

(3) Different ways in which it might be used

- * Evangelism (John 4:16-17)
- * When someone needs reassurance
- * To precipitate great healings and miracles
- * To keep the church pure (Ananias and Sapphira)
- * Just to bless His children

(4) Examples of the gift in Scripture

- * Jesus and the woman at the well (John 4:16-17)
- * Acts 5:3 Peter with Ananias and Saphira.
- * 1 Sam. 9:15-20 Lord told Samuel Saul would be the next king
- * 1 Kings 19:14-18 God told Elijah who would succeed him

b. Word of Wisdom (1 Cor. 12:8)

(1) Definition

- * A supernaturally given word of wise counsel to provide guidance for God's people in specific times of need.

(2) What it is not

- * The gift of wisdom is to be confused with natural wisdom.

(3) Examples of the gift in Scripture

- * Acts 6:1-7 The apostles came up w/steps to solve their problem.
- * Matt. 21:25; 22:21 When challengers tried to trick Jesus, he said "render unto Caesar what is Caesar's, and unto God what is God's."
- * Acts 23:6-9 Paul knew how to answer the Sanhedrin in a way that would take the focus off of himself & turn it back onto them.

c. Discerning of spirits (1 Cor. 12:10)

(1) Definition

- * A supernatural ability to determine the true source of a given action/behavior.

(2) What it is not

- * It is not some kind of spiritual thought reading
- * It is not keen mental penetration or psychological insight
- * It is not the power to discover faults in others

(3) Examples of the gift in Scripture

- * Acts 8:23 Peter sensed with Simon the sorcerer that he was full of bitterness and sin.
- * Acts 16:16-18 Paul and Silas were able to listen to the slave girl, and though she was saying things that sounded true in the natural, they discerned that she was demon possessed & cast the demon out.

2. Gifts of Power

a. Faith (1 Cor. 12:9; 13:2)

(1) Definition

- * A supernatural ability to trust God for the miraculous. Ability to believe God for something that He wants to do in such a measure that it will come to pass.

(2) Different kinds of faith

- (a) natural faith
- (b) saving faith
- (c) the fruit of the Spirit faith
- (d) the gift of faith

(3) Examples of the gift in scripture:

- * 1 Kings 18 Elijah on Mt. Carmel; he challenged 450 prophets of Baal to a dual, and did everything he could to "egg" them on.
- * Acts 3:1ff Peter and John heal lame man "don't have \$, but what we have we will give to you..."

b. Gifts of Healings (1 Cor. 12:9, 28, 30)

(1) Definition

- * A supernatural power to heal diseases and infirmities. A supernaturally given ability to bring healing to sick minds and bodies.

(2) What this gift is not:

- * It is not a high degree of medical or surgical knowledge.

(3) Examples of the gift in scripture:

- * Gospels: Jesus' ministry was characterized by healing the sick.
- * Acts 3:1-10 Peter and John heal lame man
- * Acts 5:12-16 and elsewhere, apostles heal many.

c. The working of miracles (1 Cor. 12:10, 28-29)

(1) Definition

- * A supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature. It reveals the presence and power of God, and will accomplish some practical and beneficial work.

(2) The use of this gift:

Three possible purposes

- * miraculous deliverance of God's people
 - * Parting of the red sea
- * to provide for those in need
 - * Mannah and quail in the wilderness
- * to carry out divine judgments and discipline
 - * Ananias and Saphira (Acts 5:1-11)
 - * Paul struck Elymas blind (Acts 13:8-11)

(3) Examples of the gift in scripture:

- * Ex. 14:21-31 (Parting of the Red Sea)
- * 1 Kg. 17:7-16 The widow at Zaraphath fed Elijah, and God never let her flour or oil go empty throughout the famine.
- * Mt. 14:14-21 (Feeding of the 5000 w/ 5 loaves and 2 fish)
- * Acts 9:40 (Peter raised Tabitha from the Dead)

3. Gifts of Utterance

a. Prophecy (1 Cor. 12:10; 14:3)

(1) Definition

- * A supernaturally given message from God which edifies, exhorts, or comforts the people of God.

(2) The nature of prophecy

- (a) It is intelligible speech, preferable to uninterpreted tongues.
- * See 1 Cor. 14:5,9,19

- (b) It is primarily directed toward the body, but can benefit both the body and sinners.

Four-fold purpose:

- * edifies = builds up (14:3)
- * exhorts = earnestly prompt or urge to do something (14:3)
- * comforts = encourages (14:3)
- * convicts non-believers (14:24)
- * See 1 Cor. 14:3, 22, 24)

(c) It is an extra-ordinary working of the Spirit.

- * 1 Cor. 14:25, 33

(d) The prophet is not overpowered, but is in control.

- * See 1 Cor. 14:31-33

(e) It is not infallible, because people are not infallible.

(3) Guidelines for prophecy

(a) There should only be 2-3 messages within a given service.

(b) Messages should be evaluated.

- * Seven standards by which to judge a prophecy

- * Is it scriptural?
- * Does it strengthen (build up/edify) the body?
- * Does it comfort (encourage/uplift) the body?
- * Does it exhort (challenge) the body? (1 Cor. 14:3)
- * Is it given in love? (1 Cor. 13)
- * Is Jesus glorified? (1 Cor. 12:3)
- * If it is predictive in nature does it come to pass?

(c) Messages should be given one by one, or in turn.

(d) The motivating force behind prophecy must be love.

- * See 1 Cor. 13; 14:1.

(e) No oral utterance is to be considered equal with scripture.

- * See 1 Cor. 14:36-38.

(f) Prophecy should be given properly and in order.

- * 1 Cor. 14:33,40.

b. Gift of Tongues (1 Cor. 12:10, 28)**(1) Definition**

* A supernaturally given utterance in a language that has not been learned by the speaker. The ultimate purpose is to edify the people of God.

(2) The nature of tongues

(a) It is unintelligible speech, which is to be interpreted when spoken in the body.

* See 1 Cor. 14:2,5,13

(b) It is directed toward God, and primarily edifies the individual.

* See 1 Cor. 14:2,4

(c) It can be for the edification of the entire body, only when there is an interpretation.

* See 1 Cor. 14:2-11

(d) It is not uncontrollable.

* See 1 Cor. 14:28

(3) Guidelines For Tongues:

(a) There should be no more than 2-3 messages within a given service.

(b) Messages should be given in turn, one at a time.

(c) Every corporate message in tongues needs to be interpreted.

c. Interpretation of Tongues (1 Cor. 12:10, 30)**(1) Definition**

* A supernaturally given interpretation of an utterance which was given in an unknown language.

(2) Guidelines for Interpretation of tongues:

- (a) As with all gifts, it should edify, comfort, the body.
 - * See 1 Cor. 14:12,26,31)
- (b) If a person speaks in tongues and no one interprets, it is his/her responsibility to pray for the interpretation.
 - * See 1 Cor. 14:13,28
- (c) All utterances are to be judged.
 - * No oral utterance is to be considered equal with scripture.
 - * 1 Cor. 14:29-30; 36-38
- (d) All things should be done properly and in order
 - * God is not the author of confusion but of peace (14:33,40)
 - * The gifts are not uncontrollable (1 Cor. 14:32)
- (e) The motivating force behind every gift must be love.
 - * 1 Cor. 13; 14:1

C. Motivation Gifts (Resident, Service, Temperament)

* This group of supernatural gifts seem to become resident within the faithful believer enabling him or her to continuously minister to the edification of the body of Christ.

1. Serving (Rom. 12:7; 1 Pet. 4:11)

a. Definition

* The special ability to identify the unmet needs involved in a task related to God's work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired goals.

b. Description

- * The gift of serving/ministry applies to the physical operations and administration of the church.
- * One should serve out of the strength that God provides (1 Pet. 4:11).
- * One should serve in a manner that gives glory to God (1 Pet. 4:11).
- * This is often identified with the gift of helps (1 Cor. 12:28).

c. Characteristics of someone with this gift

- * Alertness to detect and meet practical needs
- * Will to fulfill needs regardless of weariness
- * Willingness to use own funds to avoid delays
- * Capacity to be involved in many activities

d. **Biblical References**

- * Acts 6:1-7 (Choosing of the 7 to help with practical affairs)
- * Titus 3:14 (Xians need to learn to do what is good in order to meet needs)
- * Gal. 6:2 (Carry each other's burdens...)
- * Gal. 6:10 (Do good unto all men, esp. those in the household of faith)

2. **Teaching (Word of Instruction)** (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 14:6, 26)

a. **Definition**

- * The special ability to communicate information relevant to the health and ministry of the body and its members in such a way that others will learn.

b. **Description**

- * Not just talking about amassed human knowledge.
- * The ability to instruct the members of the church in the Bible and its application to life.

c. **Characteristics of someone with this gift**

- * Believe that this gift is foundational to the others
- * Delight in research in order to validate truth
- * Enjoy presenting truth in a systematic sequence
- * Experience resistance to biblical illustrations taken out of context
- * Get almost greater joy researching than presenting

d. **Biblical References**

- * Acts 18:24-28 (Apollos was good at teaching Scriptures to the Jews p/t)
- * 1 Cor. 12:28 (full time vocational)
- * Eph. 4:11-14 (full time vocational)
- * 1 Tim. 4:13-14 (Timothy's vocational gift)

3. **Encouraging (Exhortation)** (Rom. 12:8)

a. **Definition**

- * The special ability to minister words of comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counsel to other members of the body in such a way that they feel helped and healed.

b. **Description**

- * Urging someone to act on God's truth as known and taught.
- * Comforting those who need it, through Biblical truth.
- * Results in getting person to do something. Moved to action/response.

- c. Characteristics of someone with this gift
 - * Feel urgency for spiritual growth and specific action
 - * Have tendency to avoid theoretical speculation
 - * Have ability to see tribulation as an aid to maturity
 - * Insist on outward proof of an inward conviction
 - * Delight in personal counseling
- d. Biblical References
 - * Hebrews 10:25 (Don't give up meeting together...but let us encourage...)
 - * Acts 14:22 (Paul and Barnabas strengthened the disciples, and encouraged them to remain true to the faith.)

4. Giving (Rom. 12:8)

- a. Definition
 - * The special ability to contribute one's material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness.
- b. Description
 - * Involves both the means and the will to give to meet the needs of God's people.
 - * One does not have to be rich to have this gift.
 - * It is simply one who holds assets lightly.
- c. Characteristics of someone with this gift
 - * Has ability to make wise purchases and investments (Grandpa Marr)
 - * Desires to give quietly to effective projects
 - * Attempts to use own giving to motivate others to give
 - * Finds joy when own giving is an answer to prayer
 - * Desires to feel a part of the supported cause
- d. Biblical References
 - * 2 Cor. 8:1-7 (Paul encourages generosity; vs. 7 grace/gift of giving)
 - * 2 Cor. 9:2-8 (So generously, reap generously; God loves a cheerful...)
 - * Mark 12:41-44 (Widows offering, she gave all that she had)

5. Leadership (Ruling) (Rom. 12:8)

- a. Definition
 - * The special ability to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate these goals to others in church a way that they voluntarily & harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God.

b. Description

- * Used primarily of elders/pastors.
- * Exercising oversight and vision casting in the church.
- * Lead people through a difficult situation or dispute.

c. Characteristics of someone with this gift

- * Has ability to see the overall picture and goals
- * Aware of available resources
- * Has ability to know what can or cannot be delegated
- * Has tendency to assume responsibility as needed (rise to occasion)
- * Willing to endure reactions from critics

d. Biblical References

- * Acts 7:10 (Reciting ex. of why Pharaoh made Joseph ruler over land)
- * Acts 15:7-11 (Peter filled a leader role when the church leaders were in a dispute regarding circumcision.)
- * Heb. 13:17 (Respect your leaders, submit to their authority)

6. Mercy (Rom. 12:8)

a. Definition

- * The special ability to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals (Christian and non-Christian) who suffer distressing physical, mental, or emotional problems, and to translate that compassion into cheerfully-done deeds which reflect Christ's love and alleviate the suffering.

b. Description

- * Ability to demonstrate pity/compassion/sensitivity
- * Especially physical needs (hunger, sickness, etc.)

c. Characteristics of someone with this gift

- * Has ability to sense an atmosphere of joy or distress
- * Attracted to people in trouble
- * Desires to remove hurts and to bring healing
- * Sensitive to inconsiderate words and actions
- * Tend to be closed to insincere and insensitive people

d. Biblical References

- * Mark 9:41 (Anyone who even gives a cup of water in my name...)
- * Acts 16:33-34 (Philippian jailer ministered to the needs of Paul and Silas)
- * Luke 10:33-35 (Parable of the good Samaritan)
- * Matt. 20:29-34 (Jesus had compassion on 2 blind men)
- * Matt. 25:35-40 (Whatever you did to the least of these you did for me.)

7. Helps (1 Cor. 12:28)

a. Definition

- * The special ability to invest the talents one has in the lives and ministries of other Christians, for the purpose of helping them increase their effectiveness.

b. Description

- * To render "helpful deeds" in the support of the ministries of the church.
- * There may be some overlap or similarities with the gift of serving.

c. Scripture References

- * Rom. 16:1-2 (Paul tells Romans to help Phoebe in any way she needs, as she has been a help to many people, including Paul.)
- * Acts 9:36 (Tabitha/Dorcas was always doing good and helping the poor.)
- * Luke 8:2-3 (Lists several women who helped take care of Jesus & the 12)
- * Mark 15:40-41 (Refers to these same women who helped care for his needs)

8. Administration (1 Cor. 12:28)

a. Definition

- * The special ability to understand clearly the immediate and long-range goals of a particular unit of the body of Christ and to devise and execute effective plans for the accomplishment of those goals.

b. Description

- * Ability to plan, organize, and carry out various aspects of church activity.
- * Administrators tend to be organized and structured
- * The ability to guide and govern. Term is used of a helmsman of a ship.

c. Scripture References

- * Titus 1:5 (Paul left Titus in Crete to straighten out the unfinished mess)
- * Acts 6:1-7 (In choosing the 7, the 12 exercised administration.)
- * Luke 14:28-30 (If want to build something, plan it out first)

9. Other Motivational Gifts (Listed Independently)

a. Celibacy (1 Cor. 7:7,8; Matt. 19:10-11)

- * The special ability to be comfortable in one's singleness. To be unmarried and not suffer undue sexual temptations.

b. Martyrdom (1 Cor. 13:3; Heb. 11)

- * The special ability to undergo suffering for the faith even to death, while consistently displaying a joyous and victorious attitude that brings glory to God.

c. Voluntary Poverty (1 Cor. 13:1-3; Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-37; 2 Cor. 6:10; 8:9)

- * The special ability to renounce material comfort and luxury and adopt a personal lifestyle equivalent to those living at the poverty level in a given society in order to serve God more effectively.

d. Hospitality (1 Pet. 4:9-10; Rom 12:9-13; 16:23; Acts 16:14-15; Heb. 13:1-2)

- * The special ability to provide open house and warm welcome for those in need of food and lodging.

e. Exorcism (Matt. 12:22-32; Luke 10:12-20; Acts 8:5-8; 16:16-18)

- * The special ability to cast out demons and evil spirits.

f. Intercession

- * Jms 5:14-16; 1Tim 2:1-2; Col 1:9-12; 4:12-14; Acts 12:12; Lk 22:41-44
- * The special ability to pray for extended periods of time on a regular basis, and see frequent and specific answers to prayers, to a degree much greater than that which is expected of the average Christian.

D. Ministry Gifts (Resident-Office)

- * *The scriptures also identify certain offices in the church as resident gifts of God for the direction and maturity of the body.*

1. Apostle (Eph. 4:11-13; 1 Cor. 12:28-29; Eph. 2:20)

a. Basic definition of an apostle

- * Those who are sent to establish churches in unevangelized areas. Ability to assume and exercise leadership over churches with an extraordinary authority in spiritual matters which is recognized and appreciated by those churches.

b. Official restricted definition

* *Confined to the original 12 disciples because...*

(1) Apostles had specific qualifications.

- * They had been with Jesus from the beginning of his ministry (Acts 1:21-22)
- * had a personal call from Christ (Mk 3:14 Jn 20:21)
- * were witnesses of His resurrection (Acts 1:22)
- * they laid the doctrinal as well as structural foundation of the church (Jn 14:26; 16:13; Eph. 2:20)
- * they had power to work miracles (Acts 2:43; 5:12; 8:18; 2 Cor. 2:12; Heb. 2:4)
- * they will one day sit on 12 thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel (Luke 22:2, 9, 30)
- * Their names are inscribed on the 12 foundations of the new Jerusalem (Rev. 21:14).

(2) Apostles had specific functions.

- * Laying foundation (1 Cor. 3:10; Eph. 2:20)
- * Involved in establishing churches (Ex. Paul, Acts 14:21-23)
- * Some authority over these churches (1 Cor 4:15, 9:1; Gal 4:19)
- * Writing Scripture

c. Unofficial broader definition

- * This term is used in a broader sense applying to people who did not meet the above qualifications.
- * See 1 Cor. 15:5-7--Jesus appeared after His resurrection first to the 12, and then to all the apostles.
- * Additional apostles were
 - * Barnabas (Acts. 14:4,5,14);
 - * James the Lord's brother (Gal. 1:19);
 - * Silas and Timothy (I Thess. 1:1; 2:6);
 - * Paul (Rom. 1:1).

2. Prophet (Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:28,29)

a. Definition

- * A person who speaks to God's people under the inspiration of the Spirit.
- * A spokesperson for God.
- * They may foretell (predict future) or forthtell (bring forth word of God).

b. Description

- * While all Spirit-filled Christians could potentially operate in this gift, scripture implies that there were some who regularly functioned this way.
- * Those who are customary bearers of God's message to the church through the gift of prophecy.
- * The message is generally aimed to God's people.
- * Prophets tend to motivate and exhort Christians to do God's will.

See also:

- * 2 Pet. 1:19 (We have the word of the prophets-apostles' testimony)
- * Rev. 19:10 (For the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy)
- * 1 Thess. 5:20 (Do not treat prophecies with contempt)
- * Deut. 18:14-22 (Test of a prophet)

3. Evangelist (Eph. 4:11)

a. Definition

- * Those with the ability to communicate the gospel message in relevant terms to unbelievers; proclaiming effectively so that people respond to the claims of Christ in conversion and in discipleship.

b. Description

- * One whose primary task is the proclamation of the gospel (good news).
- * Presumably to non-Christians.
- * They have a one theme message: salvation.
- * They tend to not stick around and establish/lead the church, but leave that task for others.
- * In our present time, many of our missionaries may actually fill this role more precisely than those we tend to call "evangelists."

See also: 2 Tim. 4:5; Acts 8:5-6, 26-40; 14:21; 21:8

4. Pastor (Pastor-Teacher) (Eph. 4:11)

a. Definition

- * The special ability to assume long-term personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers. One charged with the guidance, shepherding, instruction, and equipping of local congregations.

b. Description

- * Term is synonymous with bishop, elder, or overseer.
- * This office is closely linked with that of teacher in Eph. 4:11.

- * This shows the close relationship.
- * A pastor (shepherd) will feed his/her flock.
- * A pastor has a responsibility to teach the people sound doctrine.
- * Just read 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus to see this.
- * A pastor will also protect/guard the flock, including protect from false doctrine. (Acts 20:28-31)

See also: 1 Tim. 3:1-7; John 10:1-18; 1 Pet. 5:1-3

5. **Teacher** (1 Cor. 12:28,29; Eph. 4:11)

a. **Definition**

- * The ability to communicate information relevant to the health and ministry of the body in a way that others will learn. One who is charged with instructing the church in the known truths of God.

b. **Description**

- * To understand and present truths in such a way that people will learn.
- * Again, there were some who regularly gave teachings in the communities
- * As we said, this office is combined with that of pastor in Eph. 4:11, but it was not in 1 Cor. 12:28.
- * We can still conclude a close relationship.
- * A pastor will teach the flock and a teacher shepherds disciples.
- * We see a richness: teaching is more than imparting facts and knowledge.

E. Using our Spiritual Gifts

1. **Recognize the ways that God has gifted you.**

- a. Every Christian has been given one or more spiritual gifts.
- b. These are given as the Spirit determines.
- c. Remember the purpose of your spiritual gift(s).
- d. Personally acknowledge your giftings.

2. **Determine what you are going to do with your gift(s).**

- a. Some do not want or accept their gift

- b. Some do not use their gift because they wanted other gifts
- c. Some do not use their gifts wisely
- d. Wise people use their gifts to bring glory to God

3. Understand the Relationship Between a “Role” and a “Gift”

* My role is what I am capable of doing for God in the lives of people, but not what I am primarily gifted to do.

Gift Indicators

- 1. What I do best
- 2. What I enjoy more
(No gift is enjoyable all the time)
- 3. What I desire to do
- 4. What I find fulfilling
- 5. What I am a self-starter in
- 6. Where I have maximum results
- 7. Where my strengths lie
- 8. Where I am bold

Role Indicators

- 1. What I can do
- 2. What I enjoy less
- 3. What I am more indifferent to
- 4. What I find frustrating
- 5. What I tend to postpone
- 6. Where I have minimal results
- 7. Where I have weaknesses
- 8. Where I am intimidated

VII. How the Holy Spirit assists in witnessing

- A. The Holy Spirit gives power (Acts 1:8)
- B. The Holy Spirit gives the words (Matt. 10:17-20; Luke 12:11-12)
- C. The Holy Spirit inspires boldness (Acts 4:31)
- D. The Holy Spirit requires purity (Acts 5:3-5)
- E. The Holy Spirit gives authority to the witness (Acts 5:32)
- F. The Holy Spirit directs organization (Acts 6:1-7)
- G. The Holy Spirit orders expansion (Acts 6:7; 8:4)
- H. The Holy Spirit breaks down barriers (Acts 10:15)
- I. The Holy Spirit overcomes Satanic power (Acts 16:16-18)
- J. The Holy Spirit directs the witness (Acts 16:6-10)
- K. The Holy Spirit prepares hearts (Acts 16:14)
- L. The Holy Spirit gives discernment Acts 14:8-10)
- M. The Holy Spirit reveals imitations (Acts 8:18-19; 19:13-16)

VIII. How the Holy Spirit assists in prayer

- A. The Holy Spirit helps our weaknesses (Rom. 8:26)
- B. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us in God's will (Rom. 8:26-27)
- C. The Holy Spirit frees the spirit to pray (1 Cor. 14:14-15)
- D. The Holy Spirit provides spiritual weaponry (Eph. 6:18)
 - 1. **Prayer is warfare**
 - 2. **The armor of the believer** (Eph. 6:10-20)
 - a. **Belt of Truth**
 - b. **Breastplate of righteousness**
 - c. **The shoes of the gospel**
 - d. **Shield of faith**
 - e. **Helmet of salvation**
 - f. **Sword of the Spirit (God's Word)**
- E. The Holy Spirit builds us up (Jude 20; 1 Cor. 14:4)
 - 1. **The world system endeavors to tear down our spiritual building.**
 - 2. **We need building up, and praying in the Spirit does that.**

IX. How the Holy Spirit assists in guidance

A. He speaks through the Word

1. He illumines the Word, which reveals the will of God to us
2. He illumines the Word, which reveals biblical principles to us
3. The Holy Spirit and the Word will always agree

B. He Speaks through a still, small voice

1. Listening
2. Maturing

C. He speaks through circumstances

1. Circumstances can be misinterpreted. (Acts 19 & 20)
2. If God is opening a door, no person can shut it. (1 Cor. 16:9)
3. Sometimes God guides through finances.
4. Sometimes God guides through fleeces.
5. Sometimes it will be a combination of all these things.

D. He speaks through “supernatural means”

1. Dreams
2. Visions
3. Angels

E. He speaks through the gifts of the Spirit

X. Manifestations of the Spirit

- A. What is a manifestation?
- B. Who is in control?
- C. Guard against seeking after manifestations
- D. Guard against taking an all-or-nothing stance
- E. Evaluate the fruit

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