

SERMON NOTES - Gifts of the Spirit 3 - Messages

Prophecy, Tongues, Interpretation

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

General introduction / recap of the gifts

1Co 12:7-11 - "7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another **prophecy**, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of **tongues**, to another the **interpretation** of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills."

The gifts mentioned here are for use in PUBLIC ministry for others as opposed to private use for personal edification.

The different types / categories of gifts

There are "gifts of the Spirit" (listed in 1 Cor 12), the "ministries of Jesus (the Lord)" (listed in Eph 4:7-12), and the "activities of God" (listed in Rom 12:4-8)

1Co 12:4-11 - "4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

The rest of 1 Corinthians 12 outlined

1Co 12:15-26 - The overriding theme is that we all have at least one gift, and we should not think of ourselves as less than those with other gifts, or try to imitate others, but every gift and individual is vital and necessary, each should be valued and celebrated, and we should act in unity and love with one another.

1Co 12:28-31 - A list of gifts is given as an illustration of how the 9 gifts of the Spirit work together with the gifts of Jesus and the Gifts of the Father. This list is NOT a list of importance or position, but rather a chronological list of how the gifts are used in the starting of a new Church and how the gifts are used in public ministry. In this list, tongues comes last as it is the last used gift in public ministry when a Church is being established.

Some insight on how prophecy is supposed to be used in public meetings:

1Co 14:3, 31 - "3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. ... 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged."

Context - How the Spirit was given to the first disciples:

The three levels of the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit:

1. HE WAS WITH THEM AS A HELPER AND FRIEND BUT WOULD BE IN THEM

Jhn 14:16-18 - "16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- 17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

2. HE INDWELT THEM WHEN HE ROSE AGAIN

Jhn 20:19, 21-22 - "19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

3. HE TOLD THEM TO WAIT TO BE FILLED / BAPTISED BEFORE DOING ANY MINISTRY

Luk 24:49 - "49 "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." **Act 1:4-5, 8 & Act 2:1-4**

What Jesus promised as He left planet Earth:

Mar 16:15-20 - "15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 17 "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 "they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen."

The gift of the Spirit is still available for you today

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.""

Some Old Testament examples of people empowered by the Spirit & prophesying:

Moses & the 70 - Numbers 11:25-26, 29 - 25 Then the LORD came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again. 29 Then Moses said to him, "Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!"

Saul - 1 Samuel 10:6, 10 - 6 "Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. ... 10 When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

Messengers - 1 Samuel 19:20-21, 23-24 - 20 Then Saul sent messengers to take David. And when they saw the group of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as leader over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. 21 And when Saul was told, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. Then Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also. ... 23 So he went there to Naioth in Ramah. Then the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on and prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah. 24 And he also stripped off his clothes and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Therefore they say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

How ALL the believers (not just the special ones) were empowered and all received

Act 2:1-4 - "1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. ...

Act 2:5-13 - "5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 Then they were all amazed and marvelled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 "And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? 11 ...we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." 12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" 13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

THIS WAS A REVERSAL OF THE TOWER OF BABEL - see Gen 11

Act 2:14-18 - "14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.

15 "For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 '*And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.*

Note that:

- Tongues, Prophecy, and Interpretation are essentially the same thing; just different forms
- It is emphasised that all received and the gift is for all and all types of people

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus (see also *Phil 1:19, Rom 8:9, Gal 4:9*)

Jhn 14:16-18 - "16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another (*another who is the same as the first*) Helper (*also translated comforter, counsellor, friend, advocate*), that He may abide with you forever-- 17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

CONCLUSION

- It's a GIFT - it cannot be earned or deserved
- There's a gift FOR YOU - Yes - for YOU
- HOW to receive ... **ASK ... BELIEVE ... ACT ...**

ASK - Luk 11:11-13 - "11 "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 "Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

BELIEVE - Gal 3:2-3, 5 - "2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? ... 5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?--"

ACT - Act 2:4 — "4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Mat 14:28-29 - So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus."

Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.