

SERMON NOTES -Gifts of the Spirit 4 - Prayer

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

General introduction / recap of the gifts

The gifts are listed and described in 1Co 12:4-11

- **Wisdom, Knowledge, Discernment** - 1 Cor 2:6-16, Ja 1:5 & 1Jn 4:1-3 show we can and must all exercise these 3 elements all the time as believers - but the gift is different.
- **Faith, Healings, Miracles** - Eph 2:8-9, Isa 53:4-5, & Eph 1:19-20 show we can and do have all of these 3 in our lives as believers - but the gift is different.
- **Prophecy, Tongues, Interpretation** - Acts 2:17-18, 1 Cor 14:23, 1 Cor 14:13 and verses below show we can have all of these in our lives as believers.

The three levels of the disciples relating to the Holy Spirit:

1. HE WAS **WITH** THEM AS A HELPER AND FRIEND BUT WOULD BE **IN** THEM
Jhn 14:16-18 - "The Spirit has been with you but will be **IN** you."
2. HE **INDWELT** THEM WHEN HE ROSE AGAIN
Jhn 20:19, 21-22 - 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

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. ..."

It is a fulfilment of Joel's prophecy from many centuries before

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.*

It's for all

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 other examples in the early Church of personal tongues and being empowered

CORNELIUS' HOUSEHOLD:

Act 10:44-47 - "44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, 47 "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptised who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

APOLLOS & THE EPHESIAN DISCIPLES:

Act 18:24-26 - "24 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man had been instructed in the way of

the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord (Jesus), though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately."

Act 19:1-6 - "1 And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples 2 he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptised?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." 4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptised with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." 5 When they heard this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied."

Personal vs Private use of tongues and some guidelines for public meetings:

1Co 12:28-30 - "28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?"

And yet...

1Co 14:23-24, 31 - "23 Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind? 24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. ... 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged."

There is clearly a difference between PRIVATE and PUBLIC tongues, and there are clear guidelines on how these gifts should be used, especially in public meetings:

1Co 14:2, 4 - "2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. ... 4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

THIS IS A DESCRIPTION OF A **PERSONAL** USE OF TONGUES - NOT PUBLIC. What follows are instructions for public use:

1Co 14:13-19, 23-24, 26-32 - 13 Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. 15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding. 16 Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? 17 For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified. 18 I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; 19 yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue. ... 23 Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind? 24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. ... 27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. 28 But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God. 29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. 30 But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. 32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets."

Benefits, power and commands for us to “pray in the Spirit”

Eph 6:18 - "18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--"

Rom 8:26-27 - "26 Likewise the Spirit also helps (*Greek = sun-anti-lambanomai*) in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

Jhn 11:33, 38 - " ... He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. ... 38 Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb..."

Jde 1:20-21 - "20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."

An example of prophecy with some important applications

Act 21:8-14 - "On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. 9 Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. 10 And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. 11 When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.' " 12 Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. 13 Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." 14 So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, "The will of the Lord be done."

Prophecy is not above Scripture, and the person receiving the prophecy - the one who must make the decision and answer to God - that person must make the final call on whether it is correct and how it should be applied.

CONCLUSION

1Co 14:39 - "Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues."

- 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 - Acts 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.