

SPIRIT-EMPOWERED MINISTRY

Teacher's Manual

Contents

Session 1 – THE HOLY SPIRIT	3
Session 2 – DISCERNING GOD'S VOICE	11
Session 3 – MOVING IN THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	16
Session 4 – THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT I	22
Session 5 – THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT II	29
Session 6 – THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT III	35
Session 7 – THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IV	41
Session 8 – DEVELOPING THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	47
Session 9 – SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND EVANGELISM	54

Helpful **Headings in this Teacher's Manual**

OBJECTIVES

OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

SUGGESTED PRE-COURSE ASSIGNMENT

BACKGROUND

EXPLANATION

ACTIVITY/ACTIVATION

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ASSIGNMENT

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, the participants should:

- understand the person, the work, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- know and use their gifts for service in the church and evangelism
- experience and gain confidence to move in the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit

OVERVIEW

Session 1: The Holy Spirit

Session 2: Discerning God's Voice

Session 3: Moving in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Session 4: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit I

Session 5: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit II

Session 6: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit III

Session 7: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit IV

Session 8: Developing Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Session 9: Spiritual Gifts and Evangelism

SESSION 1 – THE HOLY SPIRIT

SUGGESTED PRE-COURSE ASSIGNMENT

Spiritual Gifts Test (30 minutes) > <http://www.kodachrome.org/spiritgift/>

Ask the students before the first day of **Spirit-Empowered Ministry** class to take the Spiritual Gifts Test. This survey is to be used because it is the simplest so far and doable in half an hour.

¹⁶“*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*”
John 14:16,17

INTRODUCTION

1. Spiritual gifts are manifestations⁽¹⁾ and ministries of the Holy Spirit given to every believer for edification and evangelism until the return of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:7 (NIV)

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV)

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 14:12

So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

EXPLANATION

The word ‘gifts’ comes from the Greek word *charisma* meaning grace or gifts conveying extraordinary powers, distinguishing certain Christians and enabling them to serve the church of Christ, the reception of which is due to the power of divine grace operating on their souls by the Holy Spirit.¹

To understand spiritual gifts, we must first understand the Giver of those gifts.

2. An accurate understanding⁽²⁾ of God is essential for us to use His gifts as He

¹ <http://classic.net.bible.org/strong.php?id=5486>

intended. God has unequalled love and unrivalled authority. Therefore, our motive for using the gifts of the Holy Spirit is to reveal God's love and authority. Any use of His gifts for any other motive is illegitimate.

EXPLANATION

We live in terms of who we understand God to be. Therefore, any discussion of the gifts of the Holy Spirit hinges upon an understanding of the Giver of those gifts. For example, if you think God is nice but irrelevant, you will see the gifts of the Holy Spirit as natural abilities, not supernatural gifts. If you think God is bent on ruling the earth for His sake, you will see the gifts as weapons to demonstrate His might, wielded with an angry edge.

Exodus 34:6,7 is the first recorded self-description of God for Himself. It reveals both attributes of love and authority.

Exodus 34:6,7

⁶The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

Are the manifested gifts of the Holy Spirit still for now? Being able to provide an accurate, biblical, and unemotional response is critical if we are to bring people into a life of power through the Holy Spirit.

NOTE: If you have time, this would be the appropriate place to explain the following main points of Cessationism from appendix A.

3. God the Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit to be with us forever (John 14:16).

EXPLANATION

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives today?

- The Holy Spirit is our Counselor⁽³⁾.

EXPLANATION

The Holy Spirit is the Counselor, Helper, and the One who will come alongside with every believer. Jesus is preparing for His departure by declaring to His disciples that those who have faith in Him would continue to do what he had been doing, even the greater things. Then He begins to introduce the Person of the Holy Spirit as another

Counselor to be with them forever. The word Counselor in the Greek is *parakletos*, which means "intercessor" or "counselor". The KJV Bible renders this word as Comforter, which means an "advocate, someone who is called to stand alongside you to help you". In other words, in the same way that Jesus was the disciples' Counselor while He was still with them, so would the Holy Spirit be for them forever! Jesus would not leave them as orphans but would continue to be with them in the Person of the Holy Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth⁽⁴⁾.

The Paraclete is the Spirit of Truth as being the Bearer of the divine revelation, bringing truth to the hearts of men. In 1 John 4:6 it is opposed to the 'spirit of error.' (Compare with 1 Corinthians 2:12.)

1 John 4:6

We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

1 Corinthians 2:12

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

4. The Holy Spirit is not a force or an influence, but a person⁽⁵⁾.

"If we think of the Holy Spirit as merely a power or influence, our thought will be, 'How can I get more of the Holy Spirit?' But if we think of Him in the biblical way as a divine Person, our thought will rather be, 'How can the Holy Spirit have more of me?' Once [we] grasp the thought that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person of infinite majesty, glory, holiness, and power, who in marvelous condescension has come into our hearts to make His abode there and take possession of our lives and make use of them, it will put us in the dust and keep us in the dust. I can think of no thought more humbling or more overwhelming than the thought that a person of divine majesty and glory dwells in my heart and is ready to use even me."²

²⁵"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

JOHN 14:25,26

² R.A. Torrey, The Personality of the Holy Spirit

EXPLANATION

In verses 25-26, we see that the Holy Spirit is sent by the Father upon the request of Jesus. The Scriptures make clear to us that God has revealed Himself as One God in three Persons. This is a divine mystery, but if we are to relate with Him we must acknowledge Him for who He is—One in Three and Three in One—a Triunity or Trinity. The Scriptures also show us not only a dynamic but a divine order in the relationship of the Godhead. Kevin Conner in his book *Foundations of Christian Doctrine* makes the following distinctions²:

- a. The Father is the first Person, the First Cause, the Origin, Source, or Beginning
- b. The Son is the second Person, for the purpose of redemption; not inferiority, not inequality, but submission and obedience to the Father's will in redemption
- c. The Holy Spirit is the third Person, for the purpose of redemption; not inferiority, not inequality, but the Servant Person in the Godhead, proceeding from the Father through the Son.

The Holy Spirit is a divine Person, not just an influence. Most heresies, whether historical or modern, either deny the deity of Jesus or the personality of the Holy Spirit. Though the Bible may picture the Holy Spirit as a dove, oil, dew, water, wind, or fire, He can be grieved, resisted, insulted, blasphemed, or quenched.

5. The Holy Spirit works⁽⁶⁾ both in the individual and in the church.

The Spirit's Work in the Individual

- a. Conviction⁽⁷⁾ of sin (John 16:8)

John 16:8

"And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteous judgment . . ."

It is God's work to convict, not man's; we must be careful not to take on that role. Oftentimes, we can also come across as condemning. Remember, the Holy Spirit convicts us so we can repent, and be restored.

- b. Regeneration⁽⁸⁾ or the new birth (John 3:5,6)

John 3:5,6

³ Kevin Conner, *Foundations of Christian Doctrine*

⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

It is all by the graciousness and the power of God that we have experienced being born of the Spirit. This is no credit to us as we neither deserve it nor do we have the ability to change ourselves. This is an instantaneous event.

c. Adoption⁽⁹⁾ or sonship (Romans 8:15-17)

Romans 8:15-17

¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Adoption in the New Testament may mean a different ‘adoption’ as in our culture today (where, oftentimes, it comes with some baggage of rejection and favoritism). In its original context, adoption meant complete and fullness of rights of the adoptive son or daughter, as if s/he was born of the parents, related by blood. This should bring a greater faith and confidence in our prayer life—a greater boldness in claiming God’s promises.

d. Indwells⁽¹⁰⁾ us (John 14:17; Romans 8:9)

John 14:17

“ . . . even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

Romans 8:9

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

e. Guides us into all truth⁽¹¹⁾ and reveals things to come (John 16:13)

John 16:13

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”

There are many things we do not know or cannot discern. But the Holy Spirit rescues us from these limitations by giving us wisdom and knowledge when we need it.

f. Reminds us of the Word⁽¹²⁾ (John 14:26)

John 14:26

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

We all have a tendency to forget. But we can rely on the Holy Spirit to remind us of God’s word, His will and purposes, and His heart and promises for us so we can live by faith.

g. Reveals⁽¹³⁾ Jesus to us (John 16:14)

John 16:14

“He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

This is probably one of the most important workings of the Holy Spirit in us—He gives us a Spirit of wisdom and revelation to know Him better (Ephesians 1:17).

Ephesians 1:17

. . . that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him . . .

h. Leads⁽¹⁴⁾ us (Romans 8:14)

Romans 8:14

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

We will never be lost or alone in anything and everything we do.

i. Enables us to pray⁽¹⁵⁾ (Romans 8:26,27)

Romans 8:26,27

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

It is easy to pray when we know what to pray for. But there will be times when we will not know exactly what to pray for. The Holy Spirit leads us in this, especially in birthing things we cannot even begin to ask or imagine.

j. Empowers us to be witnesses⁽¹⁶⁾ (Acts 1:8)

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Having a lifestyle of testifying with the gospel of Christ is probably one of the most practical ways of being aware of the Holy Spirit's presence. His involvement in the daily affairs of the believer will always result in success, prosperity, and fruitfulness.

The Spirit's Work in the Church

a. He forms⁽¹⁷⁾ the individual members into a spiritual body (1 Corinthians 12:12,13).

It is always a miracle to see unity and like-mindedness in a group of people despite their great diversity.

b. He builds⁽¹⁸⁾ the church to become a holy temple, God's dwelling place (Ephesians 2:21,22).

The Bible teaches that we, like living stones, are being built to be a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5). By the rejection Christ endured, we have been made alive and acceptable to God.

c. He anoints⁽¹⁹⁾ the saints to be the new covenant priests unto God (2 Corinthians 1:21,22; 1 Peter 2:5,9).

Undeservingly, we have been chosen and given a responsibility of great honor to represent God.

d. He gives Spiritual gifts⁽²⁰⁾ to the members of the church (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

There is a spiritual endowment on the members of His body; the power to witness to His Lordship, and the ability to build up one another through faithful and loving service.

e. He gives direction⁽²¹⁾ and government to the church (Acts 13:1-3; 1 Corinthians 12:28-30).

God's headship is displayed as He reveals His purposes and plans when the church corporately seeks Him. The wisdom of God is revealed through the church leaders He has appointed.

ACTIVATION (15-20 MINUTES)

Have the class stand up and spend a couple of minutes praying in the Spirit. Encourage the participants to ask God for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit. The teacher may also opt to have musicians minister during this time to help create a spiritual atmosphere through a three-minute Spirit-filled worship, or simply a free-flowing prophetic worship with an accompaniment of instruments. For the remainder of the time, have two or three leaders minister to the participants (group ministry, not individual ministry). Praying for a greater portion of God's Spirit to be imparted (or as the Spirit leads). The goal is infilling and faith-building. Avoid turning it into a prayer meeting with specific prayer points or goals or multiple exhortations. Most of this activation segment should be asking for more of God's Spirit and praying in tongues. Do not teach during the activation.

SESSION 2 – DISCERNING GOD’S VOICE

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

Hebrews 1:1,2

1. One of the greatest revelations that God has given of Himself is that He is a God who speaks⁽¹⁾.

EXPLANATION

He speaks to us because He created us to have a relationship with Him, and communication is an essential part of any relationship.

God is constantly communicating with us. The question is how perceptive and responsive are we to the message He’s sending? Jesus said in Matthew 4:4 that, “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.*” The truth is that our very lives actually depend on His speaking to us.

2. The following are the three major benefits to hearing and obeying God’s voice.

- a. We will know and fulfill⁽²⁾ God’s will in our lives (Romans 12:2).

EXPLANATION

Our ability to hear from God allows us to live and walk in His will. Fulfilling God’s will for our lives begins by realizing that salvation is not only endless fellowship with God or having an eternal destination, but also being called to His purpose according to His grace (2 Timothy 1:9).

- b. We will be prosperous and successful⁽³⁾ in all our endeavors (Joshua 1:8).

EXPLANATION

When the Lord told Joshua the secret to prosperity and success, it was not only through meditation of God’s Word (called ‘the law’ in their times) but in being careful to do everything that was written in it. Obedience was key to success and prosperity.

- c. We will be effective⁽⁴⁾ in advancing God’s kingdom (Acts 2:1-4; 13:1-3).

EXPLANATION

When we learn to hear God's voice, we will discover the will of God for our lives, and we will be effective in advancing God's Kingdom.

3. Many of the gifts of the Spirit involve hearing and discerning⁽⁵⁾ God's voice. Therefore, it is important that we develop these abilities.

EXPLANATION

Hearing God's voice allows us not only to know God's mind but also to understand God's heart. These are revealed by His passion to restore His kingdom on the earth as it is in heaven, and displayed by His compassion for the lost (redemption of man). This shall allow us to both be accurate and precise in how we serve Him and His people.

4. The Bible informs us that there are various ways God speaks to us.

- a. Through God's Word⁽⁶⁾ (2 Timothy 3:16)

EXPLANATION

The Scriptures are the very words of God in written form. It is the final authority for all our faith and practice, and serves as the standard by which we judge all other revelations. The Bible is the most basic tool we should use to validate hearing God's voice.

- b. Through the Holy Spirit⁽⁷⁾ (John 16:13)

EXPLANATION

One of the names of the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. When we are born again, the Holy Spirit dwells in us forever. He is the One who will lead us and guide us into all truth.

- c. Through godly counsel⁽⁸⁾ (Proverbs 24:6)

EXPLANATION

When we get born again, the Holy Spirit baptizes us into the Body of Christ, and therefore we become joined to one another. We cannot fulfill our destiny in God without being in relationship with His people. Many times God will use pastors or other godly

leaders to speak His Word into our lives.

d. Through a prophet⁽⁹⁾ (Ephesians 4:11)

EXPLANATION

Within the church, the Lord has given prophets as a special voice to speak His mind and plans. The prophetic ministry in the New Testament is an extension of the ministry of Jesus Christ.

(There is another set of trainings for the prophets and the gifts of prophecy.)

e. Through the gift of prophecy⁽¹⁰⁾ (1 Corinthians 12:10; 14:3)

EXPLANATION

The gift of prophecy is the voice of the Holy Spirit within the church to bring strengthening, encouragement, and comfort to the saints.

f. Through angels⁽¹¹⁾ (Luke 1:8-20, 26-38; Hebrews 1:14)

Hebrews 1:14

Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

EXPLANATION

The Lord will sometimes use angels as His messengers to convey His Word to His people.

This list is not exhaustive but should be enough for us to grow in our walk with God. The goal is to know God more by listening to His voice constantly, and obeying it.

ACTIVATION (15-20 MINUTES)

Written Prophetic Word

(Since we talked about hearing God's voice, we will now give the students the opportunity to believe God to individually speak to them. Each student will pray in the Spirit, be quiet, and then believe God to speak concerning him or her. As He speaks to every individual, the students are to write down what they sense God is saying.)

INSTRUCTIONS

(The teacher should read these instructions for the students.)

Take out a pen and a sheet of paper. Write your name and the date on the sheet of paper.

Read Psalm 139:17,18.

¹⁷How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

“God’s mind is filled with precious thoughts concerning you, and they outnumber the grains of sand! He knows your every concern because He loves you. He can’t help but think of you. In this workshop, you will get just a few grains of God’s thoughts concerning you, and you will write them down.”

- This is not “automatic writing” (the perverted counterfeit where a person’s will has been taken over and controlled by a “spirit” and writes things unconsciously). This is an exercise where you are very much aware of your thoughts and know that these come from the Spirit within.
- Don’t be spooky.
- Relax. With a sanctified mind, God’s communication to us comes mostly in the form of thoughts.
- Write “My son,” “My daughter,” or “My child,” as you begin.

(This will eliminate the students’ fear of not finding a starting point. They will discover that as they write these first words they will notice that a flow of words will begin to come to mind.)

Time Allotment: 5 Minutes

WORKSHOP PROPER

(Instructions for the teacher)

1. Pray in the Spirit for about a minute. This will build up their faith and prepare them to receive from the Holy Spirit as they start writing.
2. Pray a prayer of sanctification and release of anointing.
3. Have everyone maintain silence for thirty to forty-five seconds, then let them write for three minutes. After praying in tongues, direct the students to silently ask God to speak to them individually. With a soft voice, encourage them to relax and let the Holy Spirit speak to their spirits. Encourage them that it’s usually the first thought that comes to mind.
4. Softly direct them to begin writing what they believe God is speaking to them. The time allotment is five minutes.
5. As they finish, have them review what they have written so the “Rhema” (spoken Word) would continue to penetrate their hearts.

WRAP-UP

1. Make a quick survey. Ask for a show of hands to know if people were able to hear God speak to them, and if they were encouraged by it. Say something like:

“How many sensed a definite leading of the Lord while writing what you believe are His thoughts concerning you? Is there anyone who did not get a definite leading from the Holy Spirit?”

“How many felt that what God spoke to you is relevant to your situation? Did it encourage you?”

2. Facilitate a sharing time (5 minutes). Ask two to three volunteers to read what God spoke to them and briefly share how it made an impact in their spirits and present state. This will build up the faith of the class as well.
3. Encourage everyone. Remember, to start and end every round by encouraging them. There will be times where one or a few will “miss it” or were not able to sense a leading from God during the workshop. Remind them that it’s okay because this is just a “practice time.” But do encourage these people to continue to desire and believe God that they will hear His voice and they will move in the gifts of the Spirit.
4. Give thanks and praise to God for the experience.

SESSION 3 – MOVING IN THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 12:1-7,11

¹Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit. ⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. . . .¹¹All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apports to each one individually as he wills.

EXPLANATION

In the context of spiritual gifts, the main Greek word for ‘gift’ is *charisma*, which means divine gratuity or spiritual endowment. Spiritual gifts are manifestations and ministries of the Holy Spirit given to every believer for edification and evangelism until the return of Christ. To clarify this further, here are six principles we find in the bible about spiritual gifts.

SIX PRINCIPLES OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. The source of the gifts is the Holy Spirit⁽¹⁾. (1 Corinthians 12:4)

1 Corinthians 12:4

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit . . .

2. All believers⁽²⁾ have received one or more gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:7).

1 Corinthians 12:7

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

3. The gifts should edify⁽³⁾ and strengthen the church (1 Corinthians 14:26) and evangelize the unsaved (1 Corinthians 14:24,25).

1 Corinthians 14:26

What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

1 Corinthians 14:24,25

²⁴But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, ²⁵the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

4. Gifts will vary in their strength⁽⁴⁾ (Romans 12:6).

Romans 12:6

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith . . .

Paul reminded Timothy: *Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you* (1 Timothy 4:14). He later said to him, *“For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands”* (2 Timothy 1:6). This seems to indicate that gifts can weaken with disuse and grow through use.

5. No one has all⁽⁵⁾ the gifts (1 Corinthians 12:29,30).

1 Corinthians 12:29,30

²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

6. Every gift is needed to advance God's kingdom. Therefore, every gift should be honored⁽⁶⁾ (1 Corinthians 12:22-24).

1 Corinthians 12:22-24

²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it . . .

In the next four sessions, we will examine a number of the spiritual gifts listed in the New Testament. Before we do, we must address four questions.

Four Common Questions about Spiritual Gifts

1. How is grace connected to the gifts of the Holy Spirit? Spiritual gifts are outpourings of the grace of God, manifested in a variety of ways.

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them . . .
Romans 12:6

The above passage makes it clear that grace and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are intimately connected. The etymology of the two words reveals a connection between them. The Greek word for grace is “charis”, and the Greek word for gifts is “charismata”. The suffix, “ma” indicates the result of an action, making charisma the “result of grace.” Adding the suffix “ta” makes it plural, meaning charismata is “many results of grace.”¹

The gifts of the Spirit can be understood as “bits of grace”.

“When we think about spiritual gifts, we should always think of God’s grace rather than gift-wrapped packets of power or abilities. Like a light on a prism, so the grace of God shines upon a prism of the congregation and is then refracted into a spectrum of variegated ‘grace-gifts.’”³

Spiritual gifts tangibly reveal the power and love of God.⁴

Spiritual gifts are concrete manifestations of the grace of God. Grace shapes itself to individuals and situations so that through them, God can work His purposes.⁵

The gifts listed in the New Testament are not exhaustive, but samples of the diversity of the grace of God.

2. Do the gifts of the Spirit belong to an individual, or are they given at the moment of need? Spiritual gifts are something to be exercised rather than possessed. However, if you exercise a gift with frequency, you may develop a ministry role associated with that gift.

¹ Michael Griffiths, *Serving Grace*, p. 18

³ *Ibid.*, p. 19

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 19

⁵ John Koenig, *Charismata: God's Gifts for God's People*, p. 64

“This keeps the focus off our personal giftedness and on our ministry to others.” When we focus on which gifts we have, or when we define ourselves according to those gifts, we are focusing on ourselves. How can we love others with that frame of mind?

God can use anyone to minister in any of the gifts at any time, because the Holy Spirit manifests the grace of God as He wills.

3. Why should we examine specific gifts? When we understand the gifts God has given us, we are better able to cooperate with His grace.

If focusing on our own gifts directs the attention to us and away from serving others in love, why should we dissect and examine each spiritual gift? Will that not encourage us to focus on our gifts?

Part of the answer to that question is found in the following verse. *“Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.”* (1 Timothy 4:14,15)

Paul told Timothy not to neglect the gifts God gave him, but to progress in using them. Therefore, we must know the gifts God has given us, because if we do not know what they are, we will not be able to grow in using them. Otherwise, we may be frustrated, trying to be someone different than who God has called us to be.

So, while the line between being self-aware and self-consumed is thin and must be constantly acknowledged, there is great benefit in investigating the unique forms of grace God has given to each one of us.

Have you noticed how popular personality, psychological, or career tests are? We are inherently curious about who we are and what we were meant to be. But while these have limited usefulness, understanding our spiritual gifts and calling enables us to see who God says we are. As we define ourselves from His point of view, our life takes on eternally significant proportions.

4. What is the role of the foundational ministries in Ephesians 4:11,12? The foundational ministries prepare God’s people for service.

Ephesians 4:11,12

¹¹*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,*

¹²*to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ . . .*

This passage makes a distinction between these particular people and God's people in general. Unfortunately, separating the two groups has given the implication that there is an elite group that does ministry better than anyone else, and that this group is to be esteemed as a better class of Christians. Nothing could be farther from the truth. There is not a higher class, but actually a serving class who is commissioned by God as "equippers" of His people.

The Bible does not describe the "gift" of pastoring, the "gift" of apostleship, or the "gift" of evangelism. That is because there are countless gifts of the Spirit that are necessary to bless the relationships they promote. There is no "gift of evangelism" as such, but there are those champions of evangelism who consistently urge us to use our gifts to *do the work of an evangelist* (2 Timothy 4:5).

The foundational ministries are also offices that carry authority.

- The Apostle⁽⁷⁾ has the God-given ability to plant and govern churches, lead groups of churches, and raise up church planters.
- The Prophet⁽⁸⁾ has the God-given ability to communicate with authority and with accuracy the revelation of the will and plans of God.
- The Evangelist⁽⁹⁾ has the God-given ability to proclaim the gospel with power and authority, resulting in genuine conversions.
- The Pastor⁽¹⁰⁾ has the God-given ability to lead believers into their individual and corporate destinies through discipleship and preaching the Word.
- The Teacher⁽¹¹⁾ has the God-given ability to impart truth from God's Word with insight and relevance, thereby establishing the saints in God's purposes.

The following are important requirements for practicing the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Practicing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

1. Cultivate the ability to listen ⁽¹²⁾ to the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:14

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

We need to develop our spiritual ears.

2. Watch others who are experienced ⁽¹³⁾ in spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 11:1

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

3. Walk in humility ⁽¹⁴⁾.

1 Peter 5:5,6

⁵ . . . *Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”* ⁶*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you . . .*

4. Minister the love ⁽¹⁵⁾ of Christ.

The work of the Holy Spirit is always motivated by love. All through the ministry of Jesus, we see that His purpose was not primarily to show His power, but more to show compassion on the suffering of the people who came to Him.

Matthew 14:14

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

ASSIGNMENT

In the coming days before the next class (either in groups or as individuals), engage some strangers in your campus, neighborhood, a nearby mall, or your office, and encourage them with a thought from God or a simple prayer that God will impress on you. If the opportunity permits it, share your testimony or preach the gospel. Document the experience by writing the number of people you engaged, which specific gift of the Holy Spirit you used, the number of people you shared your testimony with or preached the gospel to, and the number of people who responded.

SESSION 4 – THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT I

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

⁸For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

“A spiritual gift is a God-given capacity to serve others by His grace in a manner that edifies them in some way by showing forth Christ and His love.”¹

In the next four sessions, we will examine the gifts listed in the Bible. We will first examine the gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12.

NOTE TO TEACHER: As time permits, you may want to supplement the following material with examples of the spiritual gifts operating in your life or people you know.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit I will talk about what Bible scholars group as Revelatory Gifts.

1. The word of wisdom ⁽¹⁾ is “the sudden and miraculous giving of wisdom to meet a situation or answer a question.” ²

Paul Walker defines it as, “supernatural perspective to ascertain the divine means for accomplishing God’s will in given situations” or “divinely given power to appropriate spiritual intuition in problem solving.”³

Similar to the gift of prophecy, the word of wisdom often comes as an impression on someone’s consciousness in such a way that the person has a sense that it is from God. It can also be given through visions and dreams.

There is a difference between the supernatural gift of the word of wisdom and other kinds of wisdom. Natural human wisdom is the wisdom that comes from the physical

¹ George Mallone, *Those Controversial Gifts*. p. 166

² E. Roebert, *The Gifts and Ministry of the Holy Spirit*, p. 12

³ Paul Walker, *Holy Spirit Gifts and Power*, in *Bible for Spirit Filled Living*, p. 2024

senses and human reason. Godly wisdom is the wisdom that comes as result of fearing God and obeying His Word.

Jesus' response to the Pharisees' question about tributes to Caesar is an example of how the word of wisdom operates. (Matthew 22:17-22)

Here are other instances of men in the Bible operating in the word of wisdom.

Genesis 41:25-32

²⁵Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁶The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one. ²⁷The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind are also seven years of famine. ²⁸It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁹There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt, ³⁰but after them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt. The famine will consume the land, ³¹and the plenty will be unknown in the land by reason of the famine that will follow, for it will be very severe. ³²And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about."

1 Kings 3:16-28

¹⁶Then two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. ¹⁷The one woman said, "Oh, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house, and I gave birth to a child while she was in the house. ¹⁸Then on the third day after I gave birth, this woman also gave birth. And we were alone. There was no one else with us in the house; only we two were in the house. ¹⁹And this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him. ²⁰And she arose at midnight and took my son from beside me, while your servant slept, and laid him at her breast, and laid her dead son at my breast. ²¹When I rose in the morning to nurse my child, behold, he was dead. But when I looked at him closely in the morning, behold, he was not the child that I had borne." ²²But the other woman said, "No, the living child is mine, and the dead child is yours." The first said, "No, the dead child is yours, and the living child is mine." Thus they spoke before the king. ²³Then the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son that is alive, and your son is dead'; and the other says, 'No; but your son is dead, and my son is the living one.'" ²⁴And the king said, "Bring me a sword." So a sword was brought before the king. ²⁵And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other." ²⁶Then the woman whose son was alive said to the king, because her heart yearned for her son, "Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means put him to death." But the other said, "He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide him." ²⁷Then the king answered and said, "Give the living child to the first woman, and by no means put him to death; she is his mother." ²⁸And all Israel heard of the judgment that the king had rendered, and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him to do justice.

Acts 27:21-25

²¹Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. ²²Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. ²³For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, ²⁴and he said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.’ ²⁵So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.”

Some purposes of the word of wisdom:

1. To warn a person of impending danger so that s/he may be delivered
2. To reveal or confirm a ministry calling
3. To give assurance of a future blessing or judgment
4. To reveal the future
5. To give personal guidance in a specific situation or circumstance

2. The word of knowledge ⁽²⁾ is the supernatural ability to receive immediate and previously unknown information about a person or situation.

Walker defines this as the “supernatural insight or understanding of circumstances by revelation and without the assistance of any human resources.”⁴

The word of knowledge is not the result of education or study. It is a supernatural phenomenon.

“Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have seen my people, because their cry has come to me.”

1 Samuel 9:16

But he said to him, “Did not my heart go when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Was it a time to accept money and garments, olive orchards and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male servants and female servants?”

2 Kings 5:26

The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’ . . .”

⁴ Walker, p. 2024

John 4:17

¹But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, ²and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God." ⁵When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.

Acts 5:1-5

Some purposes of the word of knowledge:

1. Reveal the causes of sickness or demonic influence
2. Reveal God's divine place for meetings
3. Reveal the root problems in counseling situations
4. Reveal the secrets of men's hearts so that repentance may come
5. Reveal insights for intercession

3. Discerning of spirits ⁽³⁾ is the supernatural ability to see and recognize angelic and demonic spirits.

"The special ability to recognize the influence of the Holy Spirit or of demonic spirits in a person."⁶

"The supernatural power to detect the realm of the spirits and their activities."⁷

This gift is supernatural insight into the spiritual realm.

There are some who define the discerning of spirits as the supernatural ability to distinguish what spirit is motivating human words and actions, whether they are divine, human, or satanic in origin. For example:

Acts 16:16-18

¹⁶As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. ¹⁷She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." ¹⁸And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

⁶ Grudem, p. 1082

⁷ Paul Walker, Holy Spirit Gifts and Power, in Bible for Spirit Filled Living, p. 2025

Or when Jesus said to Peter, *“Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man”* (Matthew 16:23). Or when Peter said to Simon, *“Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord, that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven of you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.”* (Acts 8:22,23)

Some purposes of the gift of discerning of spirits:

1. To reveal demonic principalities and powers over different geographical areas
2. To reveal demonic influence over specific individuals
3. To reveal the direction and flow of the Holy Spirit in a particular service

ACTIVATION (15 MINUTES)

Prophetic Praying

Prophetic praying is simply Spirit-led praying. Instead of asking their partners, every student will ask the Holy Spirit what to pray for concerning their partners. This will give the students the opportunity to develop sensitivity to the voice of the Holy Spirit while practicing in a realm they are all familiar with—prayer.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Find a partner, preferably someone you don’t know well enough.
- Ask the Holy Spirit what to pray for and believe God to lead you in prayer. Pray as the Holy Spirit leads you, since the Holy Spirit knows exactly what to pray for.
- Each participant will have two minutes each to pray.
- This is practice, so ask your partner: “Will you allow me to practice on you today?” It’s okay if you will make a mistake. (This way, the students will be freed from doubt, unbelief, and other hindrances so they can step out in faith and believe God for a Spirit-led prayer.)
- Pray encouraging, strengthening, and comforting prayers only. Prayers should be based on the principle found in 1 Corinthians 14:3. No judgmental or manipulative prayers.

1 Corinthians 14:3

On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.

- Use the proper terminology. Do not say things like “thus says the Lord,” “the Spirit told me,” “God spoke to me and revealed,” etc. Remember that you are praying for your partner, and not delivering a prophetic word from God.
- There should be no prayers on who and when to marry, future pregnancies, or the number of children, or specific five-fold ministry callings.
- Believe that God will give a word of encouragement, through you, over a specific and relevant prayer concern of your partner.
- Follow all the instructions set by the instructor. Obedience is part of the training

and discipline of hearing God's voice and moving in the gifts of the Spirit.

DEMONSTRATION & PRAYER

1. Demonstrate the procedure. Whenever necessary, the instructor will demonstrate the procedure to aid the students to see exactly what they will do in the workshop. In this particular demonstration, one volunteer is needed. Once there is a volunteer, the instructor will proceed with the demonstration of the procedure.
2. After the demonstration, direct every pair to decide who will be the first one to pray.
3. Offer a prayer of sanctification and release of the anointing.

WORKSHOP PROPER

1. Begin praying in the Spirit (30-45 seconds) to build faith.
2. Observe silence for 30 to 45 seconds. After praying in tongues, direct them to silently ask the Lord to lead them in specific prayer concerning their partners. Remind them that they don't have to strive or try to reason out. Remind them that what they are receiving doesn't need to make sense to them, because it's for their partners. If they don't receive anything after a few seconds, let them start by praying a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing for their partner, then trust the Holy Spirit to lead them further on.
3. Step out in faith and pray (2 minutes maximum for each student), as you believe the Spirit leads you.
 - a. As the instructor, your primary responsibility is to create an atmosphere that would encourage faith in the students. Remember that at this point the students have now come to the reality of them moving in a new dimension in their spiritual walk with God. So smile and be very encouraging.
 - b. Use a timer/stopwatch to keep track of time. Use a bell or a ringer to signal the end of time of each round.

WRAP-UP

1. Make a quick survey. Ask if people were able to feel God's leading in their prayers and also to know if their prayers were encouraging. Say something like the following:

"How many sensed a definite leading of the Lord while praying for your partners? Is there anyone who did not get a definite leading from the Holy Spirit?"

"How many felt that what was prayed over you is relevant to your situation? Did it encourage you?"

(This will help encourage the class by seeing that most people can be sensitive

to the Spirit's leading in prayer.)

2. Ask for a few quick testimonies (3 minutes). Ask 2 to 3 volunteers to briefly share the relevance of their partner's prayer for them. This will build up the faith of the class as well as encourage those who were able to "hit the mark."
3. Encourage those who were accurate. Encourage also those who had a hard time praying to persevere in faith; that sooner or later they will be able to prophetically pray for another person.
4. Give thanks and praise to God for the experience.
5. If there is ample time, do another round of the procedure, this time with different partners.

SESSION 5 – THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT II

Romans 12:6

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith . . .

In this lesson, we will look at the 3 gifts of the Holy Spirit that Bible experts term as “vocal gifts.”

1. Prophecy ⁽¹⁾ is the supernatural ability to receive and communicate an immediate message from God to His people through a divinely anointed utterance.

Prophecy is God revealing His heart and mind for specific times and occasions. It is always a sovereign act of divine disclosure.

The gift of prophecy is speaking the mind of Christ by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Prophecy is something that the Holy Spirit has impressed on our minds. It does not proceed from human reasoning or human learning. Prophecy is not teaching or preaching that has been prepared beforehand through a study in the Scriptures. “If a message is the result of conscious reflection on the text of Scripture, containing interpretation of the text and application to life, then it is a teaching. But if a message is the report of something God brings suddenly to mind, then it is a prophecy.” ¹

- The gift of prophecy never carries the authority ⁽²⁾ of Scripture. Therefore, there is a distinction between prophecy in the Old Testament and prophecy in the New Testament.

Old Testament prophets spoke words that had divine authority. These words became part of the canon of Scripture. For the people to disobey the words of the prophets was to disobey the Words of God. (Deuteronomy 18:19)

There were three main categories of prophecy in the Old Testament. *Short-term prophecy* was fulfilled soon after it was spoken. For example, Nathan’s prophecy to David in 2 Samuel 12:7-14. These prophecies were one of the ways prophets were validated. *Long-term prophecy* was made at some historical time and fulfilled later. For

¹ Wayne Grudem. Systematic Theology, p. 1058

example, Isaiah's prophecy concerning how God will use King Cyrus was recorded in Isaiah 44:28-45:3. *End-time prophecy* was prophecy that is yet to be fulfilled. For example, the nations streaming to the house of God in Isaiah 2:2-4.

New Testament prophecy does not carry the authority of Scripture. It is not equal to God's Word in authority.

- New Testament prophecy is for edification ⁽³⁾, exhortation, and comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3).

On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.

1 Corinthians 14:3

1 Corinthians 14:3 (NIV)

But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, and encouraging and comfort.

There are only three examples of predictive prophecy in the New Testament.

A prophetic word that is not in accordance with Scripture must be rejected.

All New Testament prophecies should be judged and evaluated by other church leaders. (1 Corinthians 14:29-33)

A prophetic word that brings confusion should be rejected.

A prophetic word should not tell others what to do.

A prophetic word should be given in the context of the church community. The prophetically gifted may become overly confident in their ability to hear God, and they may expect unquestioned acceptance of their message. It is for this reason that prophetic words are best given in the context of Christian community, where both the giver of prophecy can grow in an accepting environment and the receiver is in a safe place to weigh and respond to what they hear.

2. Speaking in tongues is the supernatural ability to speak in unknown ⁽⁴⁾ languages for edification and public exhortation.

"Speaking in tongues is prayer or praise spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker." ² "These languages may be existent in the world, revived from some past

² Grudem, p. 1070

culture, or 'unknown' in the sense that they are a means of communication inspired by the Holy Spirit.”³

Speaking in tongues is a New Testament phenomenon without any precedent in the Old Testament.

- Speaking in tongues is primarily speech ⁽⁵⁾ directed toward God in prayer or praise.

For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God . . .

1 Corinthians 14:2

This is consistent with the narrative in Acts 2, when the crowd said . . .

“ . . . we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”

Acts 2:11

Tongues help us to communicate with God. When we pray in tongues, we pray beyond our human ability (1 Corinthians 14:14,15). As we use this gift, our spirit speaks directly to God, even though our minds do not formulate words and sentences or decide what to pray.

- When we speak in tongues, we edify ourselves ⁽⁶⁾ (1 Corinthians 14:4).

The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself . . .

1 Corinthians 14:4

3. The gift of interpretation of tongues is the supernatural revealing by the Holy Spirit of the meaning of an utterance in tongues.

The interpretation is not translation (as the interpreter does not necessarily understand the tongue that he is interpreting), rather it is a declaration of meaning.

Speaking in tongues in public should always be done with self-control and decency. Even when the Holy Spirit came with overwhelming power at Pentecost, the disciples were able to stop speaking in tongues so that Peter could give his sermon to the assembled crowd.

³ Walker, p. 2025

1 Corinthians 14:32

... and the spirit of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

1 Corinthians 14:40

But all things should be done decently and in order.

- Public speaking in tongues should be accompanied by an interpretation ⁽⁷⁾ (1 Corinthians 14:13).

Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret.

1 Corinthians 14:13

- When we speak in tongues and an interpretation is given, the church ⁽⁸⁾ is edified (1 Corinthians 14:5).

... When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

1 Corinthians 14:26

ACTIVATION (30 MINUTES)

Speaking in Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues

In this workshop, the students will be grouped in threes. One person will be the recipient, one will be praying in tongues and the last one will be the one to interpret the tongue.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Group into groups of three, preferably people you do not know well enough.
- Designate person 1, 2 and 3. Number 1 will be the recipient, 2 will speak in tongues for number 1 and number 3 will believe for an interpretation of the tongues.
- Believe God for the tongues as well as the interpretation of the tongues as the Spirit leads you as you minister to fellow students. It can be in the form of an impression, a word of wisdom or knowledge, a prophetic prayer or a prophetic word.
- The allotted time for the tongues and the interpretation is two minutes each.
- This is practice, so ask your group mates: "Will you allow me to practice on you today?" It's okay if you make a mistake. (This way, the students will be freed from doubt, unbelief, and other hindrances so they can step out in faith and believe God for an interpretation.)

- Speak encouraging, strengthening, and comforting words only. It should be based on the principle found in 1 Corinthians 14:3. No judgmental or manipulative words as well.
- No predictive words on who and when to marry, future pregnancies or future number of children, and specific five-fold ministry callings.
- Believe God for a powerful, specific, and relevant interpretation for your partner.
- Follow all the instructions set by the instructor.

DEMONSTRATION & PRAYER

1. Demonstrate the procedure. In this particular demonstration, two volunteers are needed. Once there are volunteers, the instructor will proceed with the actual demonstration of the procedure. One will be the recipient, the other volunteer will speak in tongues and the instructor will interpret.
2. After the demonstration, encourage every group to do the same.
3. Offer a prayer of sanctification and release of the anointing.

WORKSHOP PROPER

1. Begin praying in the Spirit (30-45 seconds) to build faith.
2. Person number 2 to start praying in tongues for person number 1. (1-2 minutes)
3. Person number 3 to believe God for an interpretation. (2 minutes)
 - a. The instructor is to ensure that an encouraging atmosphere is maintained in order for faith to rise up within the students. Remember that at this point the students have now come to the reality of them moving in a new dimension in their spiritual walk with God. So smile and be very encouraging.
 - b. Use a timer/stopwatch to keep track of time. Use a bell or a ringer to signal the end of time for each segment.

WRAP-UP

1. Make a quick survey. Ask if the people felt God's leading in their speaking in tongues and interpretation, and also if the interpretation was encouraging. Say something like the following:

“How many sensed a definite leading of the Lord while praying in tongues for your group mate? How many sensed a definite leading of the Lord while interpreting the tongues for your group mate? Is there anyone who did not get a definite leading from the Holy Spirit?”

“How many of you bear witness to the interpretation that was given you or felt it was relevant to your situation? Did it encourage you?”

2. Ask a few quick testimonies (3 minutes). Ask about two to three volunteers to briefly share the relevance of their groupmate’s interpretation of tongues for them. This will build up the faith of the class as well as encourage those who were able to “hit the mark.”
3. Encourage those who were accurate. Encourage also those who had a hard time doing so to persevere in faith; that sooner or later they will get be able to interpret prayers in the Spirit.
4. Give thanks and praise to God for the experience.
5. If there is ample time, do another round of the procedure, this time each person has a different role.

ASSIGNMENT

In the coming days before the next class (either in groups or as individuals), engage some strangers in your campus, neighborhood, a nearby mall, or your office, and encourage them with a thought from God or a prophetic prayer that God will impress on you. If the opportunity permits it, share your testimony or preach the gospel. Document the experience by writing the number of people you engaged, which specific gift of the Holy Spirit you used, the number of people you shared your testimony with or preached the gospel to, and the number of people who responded.

SESSION 6 – THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT III

⁴ . . . and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:4,5

This lesson will cover the gifts of the Holy Spirit that bible scholars group as “power gifts.”

1. The gift of faith ⁽¹⁾ is a supernatural, sudden, and unexpected burst of power and authority to meet the needs of a specific situation.

This gift is the supernatural working of the Holy Spirit upon the believer that empowers him or her to trust fully that God will act in a supernatural manner at a particular time.

This gift usually manifests when God is about to do a certain work, especially a miraculous one. This gift occurs when God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, performs supernatural exploits that cannot be humanly explained.

- The gift of faith differs ⁽²⁾ from normal Bible faith that comes from hearing God’s Word.

Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

For example: Starting with only fifty cents, George Mueller built and maintained a number of orphanages in Bristol, England in the nineteenth century. Through prayer and the gift of faith, he fed the orphans for sixty years without once making his needs known to other people. Often mealtime was almost at hand and there was no food, but God met their need every time, without fail.

- The gift of faith often works in conjunction ⁽³⁾ with the gift of healing or miracles.

Acts 3:1-8

¹Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ²And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. ³Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. ⁴And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." ⁵And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" ⁷And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

Another example occurs in **Acts 13:6-12**:

⁶When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. ⁷He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. ⁸But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him ¹⁰and said, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? ¹¹And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time." Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. ¹²Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

The gift of faith was prevalent in the Old Testament. God gave Joshua the gift of faith to cause the sun to stand still for 24 hours (Joshua 10:12-14). God gave Samson the gift of faith to destroy the Philistine temple (Judges 16:28-30). God gave Daniel the gift of faith to receive deliverance when he was thrown in the lions' den (Daniel 6:16-22).

2. Healing ⁽⁴⁾ is the supernatural ability to affect the cure of illness and to restore health apart from natural means.

Through the gifts of healing, God delivers the sick, destroys the work of the devil in the human body, and reverses the results of the curse.

The word *healing* is plural in 1 Corinthians 12:9,28, because there are a variety of forms of this gift.

1 Corinthians 12:9,28

⁹ . . . to another faith by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healing** by the one

*Spirit . . . ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then **gifts of healing**, helping, administering, and various kinds of tongues.*

Men are not “healers” in the sense that they possess healing power—God is always the healer, but we do participate in His work. This view is supported by a change in syntax in 1 Corinthians 12:28 that moves from people who are apostles, prophets, and teachers, to those who participate in the many workings of God’s healings.

Physical sickness is the result of man’s fall in the Garden. But Christ purchased for us freedom from sin and sickness (Isaiah 53:4,5). However, we are living in the overlap of two ages. The kingdom of God will only arrive in fullness when Jesus returns and we receive our resurrected bodies. The gift of healing in this present age is a foretaste of the physical healing and perfect health that He will grant us at that time.

All believers can stand on the promises of God for their own healing, but there are people in the church who are more effective in praying for the sick than others.

- Healing functions as a “sign” to authenticate ⁽⁵⁾ the gospel message and to show that the kingdom of God has come (Mark 16:17,18,20).

Mark 16:17,18,20

¹⁷“And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” . . . ²⁰And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

The Bible often records healings in connection with evangelism.

Acts 8:5-8

⁵Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. ⁶And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. ⁷For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸So there was much joy in that city.

- Healing glorifies ⁽⁶⁾ God and displays His power and love (John 9:1-4).

John 9:1-3

¹As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

Matthew 20:31-34

³¹The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent, but they cried out all the more, “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!” ³²And stopping, Jesus called them and said, “What do you want me to do for you?” ³³They said to him, “Lord, let our eyes be opened.” ³⁴And Jesus in pity touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him.

The gift of healing was also prevalent in the Old Testament. Moses erected a bronze serpent, and anyone who looked upon it was healed (Numbers 21:9). Naaman was healed from leprosy through the ministry of Elisha (2 Kings 5:1-14). God extended Hezekiah’s life by fifteen years through the ministry of Isaiah (Isaiah 38:1-8).

3. The effecting of miracles ⁽⁷⁾ is a manifestation of power beyond the ordinary course of natural law; it is a divine enabling meant to draw attention to the power and glory of God (John 2:11; Acts 5:12,14).

The Greek word *dunamis* translated as ‘miracles’ in 1 Corinthians 12:10 is the same Greek word for ‘power’. *Dunamis* refers to the strength, power, and ability for performing miracles.⁸

John 2:11

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Acts 5:12,14

¹²Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. . . . ¹⁴And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women . . .

The working of miracles was also prevalent in the Old Testament. Moses performed a miracle when he struck the rock at Horeb and provided drinking water for God’s people (Exodus 17:6). Samson performed a miracle when he tore the lion apart with his bare hands (Judges 14:5,6). Elijah performed a miracle when divided the waters so that he and Elisha could pass on dry land (2 Kings 2:8).

ACTIVATION

Moving in Healing and Miracles

⁸ <http://classic.net.bible.org/strong.php?id=1411>

(Teach these steps first then apply.)

1. Pray in the Spirit for several minutes—charge your faith. This creates momentum in our spirit to believe for supernatural things.
2. By faith, cancel all the work of sin or Satan over the person's life. The only legal claim of Satan over a body or a person's life is because of sin, whether unconfessed or resident curses. When we pray the cancellation, we are enforcing the work of Christ on the cross that makes a way for us to receive and experience breakthrough and miracles.

Colossians 2:14

. . . by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Galatians 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree" . . .

3. Bind and uproot the stronghold of disease and/or affliction. If there is spiritual resistance, we pray the binding of the stronghold. If none, then there's no need to pray this. Discern carefully and pray with wisdom.

Mark 3:27

In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.

Matthew 18:18

"Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

4. By faith, speak healing and restoration by the blood of Jesus. Here we employ the power of confession, whether it is Scripture about the work of Christ or the proclamation of our salvation in Christ.

1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Mark 11:23

“Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.”

5. By faith, declare the miracle and envision God performing it. Apply the power of declaration with confidence and boldness. Claim the promises of God.

Mark 11:24

“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

Romans 4:17

... as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations” —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

2 Corinthians 4:13

Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak . . .

6. Have the person healed testify to what God has done.

WORKSHOP PROPER

1. Have some people who have sicknesses come forward for prayer (if they are willing). If none or too few come forward, write names of sick people on a piece of bond-sized paper (in large font) and put the paper on a chair.
2. Choose those who desire to minister to come approach the sick people or the chairs with names.
3. Pray in the Spirit for three to five minutes.
4. By faith, cancel all the legal claims of Satan.
5. Bind and uproot the stronghold of disease and/or affliction.
6. By faith, speak healing and restoration by the blood of Jesus.
7. By faith declare the miracle and envision God performing it.
8. Have a person testify to what God has done.

SESSION 7 – THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IV

The next set of gifts comes from Romans 12.

⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Romans 12:6-8

1. The gift of serving ⁽¹⁾ is the supernatural ability to identify and meet the needs involved in doing God's work.

Horton defines the gift of serving as "coming to someone's aid, helping the weak, or displaying kindness."¹ People with the gift of serving are always the first to volunteer when something practical needs to be done.

People with the gift of serving are motivated by the opportunity to help. They are willing to get their hands dirty, working until the job is done, with little need for recognition.

People with the gift of serving see what needs to be done, usually before anyone else does. They come alongside the visionaries and help get their inspirational projects finished.

God requires all Christians to serve, but He endows some with a special ability to serve.

2. Teaching ⁽²⁾ is the supernatural ability to communicate revelation and truth from God's Word so that others will grow and mature.

People with the gift of teaching are passionate to transfer information and to ensure that it is understood and applied. They will use every opportunity to explain a biblical truth.

People with the gift of teaching are able to take the complexities of God's Word and frame them in terms that are easy to comprehend and apply.

3. The gift of encouragement ⁽³⁾ is the supernatural ability to minister words of

¹ Horton, What the Bible says, p.279

comfort, counsel, and exhortation.

The following points are taken from the life of Barnabas, a New Testament example of the gift of encouragement. His given name was Joseph, but he so embodied the gift of encouragement that the apostles nicknamed him Barnabas (which means, “son of encouragement.” (Acts 4:36)

People with the gift of encouragement see the potential in people and urge them to fulfill their destiny.

Acts 9:26,27

²⁶And when he [Paul] had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple.

²⁷But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.

Acts 11:25,26

²⁵So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

We have no information about what Paul was doing in Tarsus, but we know that after he came to Antioch, his missionary and apostolic calling thrived.

4. The gift of giving ⁽⁴⁾ is the supernatural ability to contribute significant financial resources for the advancement of God’s kingdom.

The gift of giving implies the ability to produce significant financial resources. The words *produce* and *contribute* are both necessary to fully understand the gift of giving. If a person cannot produce significant financial resources, s/he certainly cannot give significant financial resources. And conversely, if s/he can produce significant financial resources but chooses not to give them, s/he certainly does not have the gift of giving. People with the gift of giving often have an uncanny ability to spot a good investment.

It is a temptation to view this gift as “unspiritual” or as an entirely natural ability. However, this gift is exercised through faith in God, making the effects of this gift stretch far beyond monetary value.

2 Corinthians 9:11

You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

5. The gift of leadership ⁽⁵⁾ is the supernatural ability to influence and mobilize people to work together to advance God's kingdom.

People with the gift of leadership are usually self-starters who like to initiate projects. They want responsibility and are usually not afraid of being the focus of attention.

People with the gift of leadership often find it difficult to follow others because they think they could do it so much better.

6. The gift of mercy ⁽⁶⁾ is the supernatural ability to feel genuine empathy and compassion for suffering people and to translate that into selfless acts that reflect Christ's love.

People with the gift of mercy are motivated by the desire to comfort the hurting.

Sometimes people with the gift of mercy may want to alleviate pain so much they tend to actually undermine the maturity required of an individual to take responsibility for his/her own life. A mercy-giver needs to add discernment to their gift, rather than just automatically helping alleviate the pain.

People with the gift of mercy are able to transfer their own suffering into comfort that overflows for others who are hurting.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

People with the gift of mercy do not just empathize with someone's pain, but they also tend to hate what brought that person to that place of pain in the first place. This courageous kind of mercy drags people out of bars, refuses to believe the lies, and insists on the power of God to deliver them from their bondage.

7. The gift of helps ⁽⁷⁾ is the supernatural ability to support others and increase their effectiveness.

1 Corinthians 12:28

And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

People with the gift of helps are usually proficient at various practical skills and are motivated by a desire to assist others.

The gift of helps is often accompanied by the gift of serving.

8. The gift of administration ⁽⁸⁾ is the supernatural ability to understand the goals of a church or ministry and to formulate and implement effective plans to accomplish those goals.

The Greek word *kubernesis* translated as 'administration' literally means 'a person who steers a ship.'

People with the gift of administration have the ability to know where God is leading and to hold steady on that course.

A helmsman becomes particularly important during storms, for they can navigate through the distractions and dangers, and bring people safely to the other side.

People with the gift of administration may often become too critical of others who want to go in different directions. They may tend to be goal-oriented that they forget the people they are directing.

It is easy to mistake this gift as only a human skill to organize people toward a desired direction. But the gift of administration is the power of the Holy Spirit to lead people toward *God's* agenda. And knowing the resistance people can have in submitting to Christ, it clearly takes *His* empowering to turn them toward His will.

Authors who write about spiritual gifts often delineate other gifts not found in any of the New Testament "gift lists." The following are a few examples.

9. The gift of hospitality ⁽⁹⁾ is the supernatural ability to provide an open house and warm accommodations to those in need.

Although all believers are urged to practice hospitality (1 Peter 4:9), some have a special gift of hospitality.

Romans 16:23

Gaius, whose hospitality I and the whole church here enjoy, sends you his greetings. . . .

10. The gift of intercession ⁽¹⁰⁾ is the supernatural ability to pray for extended periods.

Although all believers are urged to pray (1 Timothy 2:1), some have a special gift of prayer.

Colossians 4:12

Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

ACTIVATION (30 MINUTES)

Personal Prophecy

In this workshop, the students will be paired up and will be allowed to receive prophetic utterances or words from God and deliver these to their partners.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Find a partner, preferably one you do not know well enough.
- Believe God for prophetic utterances as the Spirit leads you in ministering to fellow students.
- The allotted time for each prophecy is two minutes.
- This is practice, so ask your partners: “Will you allow me to practice on you today?” It’s okay if you make a mistake.

(This way, the students will be freed from doubt, unbelief, and other hindrances so they can step out in faith and believe God for a prophetic utterance.)

- Speak encouraging, strengthening, and comforting words only. Prophecies should be based on the principle found in 1 Corinthians 14:3. No judgmental or manipulative prophecies as well.
- Use the proper terminology. You are not allowed to say things like “thus says the Lord,” “the Spirit told me,” “God spoke to me and revealed,” etc.
- No predictive words on who and when to marry, future pregnancies or future number of children, and specific five-fold ministry callings.
- Believe God for a powerful, specific, and relevant prophetic word for your partner.
- Follow all the instructions set by the instructor.

DEMONSTRATION & PRAYER

1. Demonstrate the procedure. In this particular demonstration, one volunteer is needed. Once there is a volunteer, the instructor will demonstrate the procedure.
2. After the demonstration, direct every pair to decide who will be the first one to prophesy.

3. Offer a prayer of sanctification and release of the anointing.

WORKSHOP PROPER

1. Begin praying in the Spirit (30–45 seconds) to build faith.
2. Then step out in faith and prophesy in turns (two minutes maximum for each student), as they believe the Spirit leads them. Remind the students that they don't have to strive. With a sanctified mind, prophetic words usually are the first things that come to mind. If they don't receive anything after a few seconds, let them start by saying a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing for their partner, then trust the Holy Spirit to lead them further on to deliver a prophetic utterance.
 - a. The instructor is to ensure that an encouraging atmosphere is maintained in order for faith to rise up within the students. Remember that at this point the students have now come to the reality of them moving in a new dimension in their spiritual walk with God. So smile and be very encouraging.
 - b. Use a timer/stopwatch to keep track of time. Use a bell or a ringer to signal the end of time segment.

WRAP-UP

1. Make a quick survey. Ask if the people felt God's leading in their prophecies and also if their prophetic words were encouraging. Say something like the following:

“How many sensed a definite leading of the Lord while delivering the prophetic word to your partners? Is there anyone who did not get a definite leading from the Holy Spirit?”

“How many of you felt that the prophetic word given to you was relevant to your situation? Did it encourage you?”
2. Ask for a few quick testimonies (3 minutes). Ask two to three volunteers to **briefly** share the relevance of their partner's prophetic word for them. This will build up the faith of the class as well as encourage those who were able to “hit the mark.”
3. Encourage those who were accurate. Encourage also those who had a hard time prophesying to persevere in faith. Sooner or later they will get it.
4. Give thanks and praise to God for the experience. If there is ample time, do another round of the procedure, this time with different partners.

SESSION 8 – DEVELOPING THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands . . .

2 Timothy 1:6

In the last four sessions, we have learned the different spiritual gifts in the Bible. Now, we will learn how to become effective in operating in our gifts and also learn some practical ways on how to develop our specific set of gifts.

1. Serve ⁽¹⁾ the church through volunteer ministries.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace . . .

1 Peter 4:10

The church is one of the biggest organizations in the world that runs on volunteers. Disciples do not get paid to do God's work. The church's volunteer ministries are some of the best environments to discover and develop your spiritual gifts. Many church ministries are gift-based in structure. Here are some common volunteer ministries of the local churches and a description of some (not all) spiritual gifts that can be useful for each of them. This can help guide you in the types of spiritual gifts we can desire.

- Music/Worship ⁽²⁾ Ministry – Volunteers in this ministry facilitate the lifting of praise and worship through music. Obviously, it requires skill in music.

a. The most useful spiritual gifts for this ministry may include any of the following:

- Leadership
- Prophecy
- Exhortation

b. Other useful gifts may include:

- Discernment
- Craftsmanship
- Faith
- Encouragement
- Ushering ⁽³⁾ Ministry – This ministry is in charge of creating order in the set-up and facilitation of people moving in and out of the service venues. In some churches, this team is also in charge of carrying or moving equipment, and also providing additional security.

a. The most useful spiritual gifts for this ministry may include any of the following:

- Administration
- Encouragement
- Service or helps
- Discernment
- Hospitality

b. Other useful gifts may include:

- Evangelism
- Mercy
- Pastoring
- Leadership

• Communications ⁽⁴⁾, Technical, and Creative Support Ministry – This team is in charge of providing multimedia support services. These are the volunteers who come up with ideas on how to communicate the gospel and other Bible messages effectively, from conceptualization to production and execution. Of course, specific skill sets are also required to combine with the gifts.

a. The most useful spiritual gifts for this ministry may include any of the following:

- Evangelism
- Word of knowledge
- Word of wisdom
- Prophecy
- Administration
- Encouragement
- Craftsmanship

b. Other useful gifts may include:

- Helps
- Service
- Teaching
- Leadership

• Administrative Support ⁽⁵⁾ Ministry – This ministry is in charge of a variety of tasks, such as gathering information and organizing events, as well as creating order structures for church activities.

a. The most useful spiritual gifts for this ministry may include any of the following:

- Administration
- Service
- Helps
- Leadership

b. Other useful gifts may include:

- Encouragement
- Hospitality

- Mercy

- Kids ⁽⁶⁾ Ministry – This ministry is like a small church within a church. Therefore, all other volunteer ministries have a scaled-down version operating within it. On a practical level, most of the spiritual gifts will be useful in this environment.

a. The most useful spiritual gifts for this ministry may include any of the following:

- Teaching
- Administration
- Craftsmanship
- Exhortation
- Evangelism

b. Other useful gifts may include:

- Faith
- Pastoring
- Prophecy
- Discernment

2. Use the vocal and revelatory gifts in church gatherings ⁽⁷⁾.

Another environment for moving in spiritual gifts in the local church is the corporate gathering. This includes worship services, prayer meetings, and leadership convergences.

During these gatherings, how can a person being prompted to move in a gift be a blessing to the body? 1 Corinthians 14 shares some principles that can be applied for church gatherings today.

1 Corinthians 14:26,29-33,40

²⁶*What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for*

building up. . . .²⁹Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. ³⁰If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. ³¹For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, ³²and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. ³³For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. . . . ⁴⁰But all things should be done decently and in order.

Following are a few things we should always remember before moving in the gifts in corporate gatherings:

a. The Minister ⁽⁸⁾

We need to remember that there is always a person leading these events. A lead pastor or ministry team leader (someone who may or may not be a vocational minister) is usually assigned to the congregation during an event. S/he has been given the charge to facilitate that specific meeting. We should be aware of who the leader is and where this person is located. Any speaker besides him/her will first have his/her approval.

The lead minister will usually have a support team of leaders, speakers, or ministers. When a volunteer or leader other than these have a word to share or a prayer direction, s/he should approach any of the team of leaders in charge and inquire if it would be good to speak about whatever s/he has been prompted with. The leader/s will then decide if it would benefit the church to hear the word or prayer, and if the timing is right.

This method allows for ease in moving together and varies with the size of the meetings and the present flow of activities.

(The relationship between speakers is also important, as speakers and ministers will usually not give the floor to a stranger or someone they cannot trust.)

Regardless of the decision, we must respect it!

Hebrews 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

The Bible admonishes us to obey our leaders and submit to them. God has delegated authority and leaders have an accounting to give. Let us learn to cooperate well with them and trust in their God-given wisdom and judgment.

Expect that there will be more times when you will be told to either wait or to keep the revelation in prayer, especially in bigger settings where many leaders are prompted to speak or pray. But this should not be a discouragement because responding to the prompting of the Spirit is already an act of faith. Approaching leaders in an attempt to

share takes some boldness. Be rest assured also that it is not the gift or you that is being rejected. The leaders are just carefully determining the timing and flow of the meeting. Be assured also that God knows how to build His church. If God wanted to speak the word you felt prompted to share, He can and will use another person or do it in another way.

b. The Mission ⁽⁹⁾

We must also remember the mission or purpose of these gatherings. The goal is the strengthening of the church (1 Corinthians 14:26).

All that needs to be said should contribute to the specific purpose of the meeting as planned whether it is for instruction, encouragement, or the edification of the listeners (1 Corinthians 14:31).

c. The Manner ⁽¹⁰⁾

Finally, we must also remember the manner of moving in the gifts. 1 Corinthians 14:40 says, these should be done in a fitting and orderly way. The way things are done should also reflect the God that we worship. He is a God of peace not of disorder (1 Corinthians 14:33).

3. Minister healing ⁽¹¹⁾ and believe for miracles ⁽¹²⁾.

One of the most common needs of people involves healing and miracles. We should always be sensitive to God's leading when people with sickness or disease are near or around us or when circumstances needing miracles are presented to us. Sometimes, they will ask for prayer. In other times, God will lead us to offer to pray for them. Either way, we should always be ready.

Here are some healthy practices in moving in these gifts:

- a. Memorize ⁽¹³⁾ Scriptures on healing and/or meditating on miracles and wonders performed in the Bible.

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Romans 10:17

The Bible teaches us that God's Word is spirit and that it is life to us. The gospel has the quality of bringing about life over a person and his/her circumstances.

b. Pray in the Spirit to build ⁽¹⁴⁾ your faith.

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit . . .

Jude 20

The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself . . .

1 Corinthians 14:4

Praying in tongues allows for recalibration of one's thoughts and feelings as the Bible teaches that when a person does this, the mind becomes unfruitful. It is an act by which we allow the Spirit to realign our hearts to His plans and purposes. When we pray in the Spirit, God guides our prayers directly.

c. Show compassion ⁽¹⁵⁾ for others in need.

Let God's compassion move you when people in need are present. Offer kindly to pray for other's needs. Do this with wisdom, and not presumption.

SESSION 9 – SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND EVANGELISM

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

In this final section, we will examine how the gifts of the Holy Spirit can be used to do the work of evangelism.

1. The gifts of the Holy Spirit equip us to minister effectively to the body of Christ and to the lost ⁽¹⁾.

¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. . . . ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:1,4,5

The kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power (1 Corinthians 4:20). Jesus preached the kingdom and He demonstrated its power through signs, wonders, and various miracles. We can also see this pattern in the ministry of the apostles and of the early church. They received Jesus’ promise of power when the Holy Spirit came on them (Acts 1:8; 2). That same promise is also for us today. We are called and empowered by the Lord to do what He did, and even greater things (John 14:12). We have been entrusted with the gospel message backed up with God’s power.

The preaching of the gospel accompanied by signs and wonders is what we will call “Power Evangelism.” According to John Wimber:

“Power Evangelism is a spontaneous, Spirit-inspired, and empowered presentation of the gospel. It is evangelism that is preceded and undergirded by supernatural demonstrations of God’s presence.”¹

2. Jesus demonstrated ⁽²⁾ the power of God as He proclaimed the message of

¹ John Wimber with Kevin Springer, Power Evangelism (New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1986), 35

the kingdom. This serves as an example for us to follow as we continue His work on the earth.

Matthew 4:23

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

Mark 1:39

And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

3. Jesus instructed ⁽³⁾ His disciples to move in the power of God when He sent them out.

Matthew 10:7,8

⁷“And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ⁸Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.”

Luke 10:1-9

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ²And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ ⁶And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”

4. Here are some examples of how the gifts of the Holy Spirit were used in the book of Acts in conjunction with evangelism.

PASSAGE	POWER GIFTS	PRODUCT
Acts 2:42-47	Wonders and miraculous signs	People were saved daily
Acts 3:1-4:4	Healing	The numbers grew to 5,000
Acts 5:12-16	Miraculous signs, healing, deliverance	More were added to their number
Acts 8:4-13	Healing, miracles, deliverance	Huge crowds, city filled with joy, many saved
Acts 14:1-7	Miraculous signs and wonders	A great number of Jews and Greeks believed
Acts 19:1-20	Miracles, healing, deliverance	The whole province of Asia heard God's Word

5. Using the gifts of the Holy Spirit in evangelism allows us to express the love of God to individuals in conjunction ⁽⁴⁾ with preaching the gospel.

It is a way to bypass the intellect or rationale of an individual and reach their heart. (Share some of your experiences or others' experiences in power evangelism.)

6. How should we approach power evangelism?

- Confidently ⁽⁵⁾

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 10:1

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.

All authority is in Christ, therefore anything He calls us to do, we have access to the source of the power required to do it. He has given us authority to trample on snakes

and scorpions, and to overcome all the power of the evil one (Luke 10:19). Our authority and power to do the works of God is found in our representation of Jesus here on the earth. In all we do, we are His ambassadors, representing Him on earth. In his book *Intercessory Prayer*, Dutch Sheets said, “All true New Testament ministry is but an extension of the ministry of Jesus through the church. This is the absolute and only key to her authority.”

- Lovingly ⁽⁶⁾

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Philippians 2:3,4

³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Our motivation in ministering to the lost in the power of God should not be personal glory, but God’s glory and the freedom of others. The manifestations of the power of God are supposed to let them know that there is a God and He loves them. We should have a humble attitude and demeanor—not weird, abrasive, and arrogant.

- Purposefully ⁽⁷⁾

Every miraculous act had a purpose, and that was to confront people with the message of the gospel and so that those who were confronted had to decide whether to accept or reject the message.

APPLICATION

Commissioning

Have the students stand up and ask them to pray in the Spirit. Pray for a fresh in filling of the Spirit on the students. You can either ask them to pair up to pray for each other for divine appointments to exercise power evangelism or, as the pastor, you can pray that for them. Ask God to drop a person’s name in their hearts and have them ask God what particular thing to do.

APPENDIX A: THE CESSATIONIST VIEW

1. Proponents of the Cessationist view contend that the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit ceased after the age of the Apostles. Their proof text is 1 Corinthians 13.

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. . . . ⁸Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

1 Corinthians 13:1,2,8-10

2. People who hold to a Cessationist view believe that the “perfection” in this passage refers to the canon of Scripture. They claim that the gifts of the Holy Spirit passed away when the canon of Scripture was completed around AD 100.
3. While we deeply respect our brothers who hold this view, the context of this passage makes no mention of the canon of Scripture. Therefore, we should not interpret it that way. Spiritual gifts will no longer be needed when perfection comes (1 Corinthians 12:10) and we see God face to face in heaven (1 Corinthians 13:12).
4. A better way to understand the “perfection” spoken of in this text is to connect it with the perfection we will experience when we all attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ . . .

Ephesians 4:11-13

5. It is obvious that the Church has not attained to this high calling yet. Therefore, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are still in operation, and will be until we reach the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.