



THE HOLY SPIRIT
Fruits + Gifts

Empowering Us To Live The Christian Life



THE SANCTUARY

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The Holy Spirit, the mere mention often raises a myriad of questions:

- What is it? Or more accurately asked, “Who” is He?
- Are the Holy Ghost and the Holy Spirit the same thing?
- What is the difference between “the baptism of the Holy Spirit,” and “becoming Spirit-Filled”?
- Are the Holy Spirit gifts for today?
- What is the relationship between the fruit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit?
- What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit and how is it produced?
- What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?
- How are the gifts of the Holy Spirit exercised?
- How do I receive the gifts I need . . . and desire?
- What gifts should I expect?

The answers to these and every question are found in the same wonderful place: God’s Word—the Bible! Perhaps the reason there are so many questions surrounding the Holy Spirit, is because His ministry is so diverse. There are libraries filled with extensive studies and exhaustive works on this subject. My goal for this reader is to put basic, yet practical and applicable, understanding to the most common questions and misconceptions. This is written as a supplement to your personal study time in the rich and plentiful Word, which God has provided for each of us.

I strongly encourage you to take your Bible (even before you process this reader) and do an in-depth study on the Holy Spirit for yourself. John 14-16 is a good place to start. A great way to study the Bible is with the aid of a concordance,¹ commentary, or some of the recommended books found at the end of this reader.

It is a wonderful experience to see, with your own eyes, the answers that are discovered by those who do the digging and diligent work of discipleship. As a student of Scripture, you’ll mine a rich treasure of truth . . . led by guess who? The Holy Spirit (John 14:17)!! In doing so, you’ll begin to deepen your relationship with God and “understand the confident hope He has given to those He called” (Ephesians 1:8).²

¹ An alphabetical index of the words found in the Bible, with a reference to the passage/location in which they occur.

² All texts, unless otherwise noted, are from the New Living Translation (NLT).

THE HOLY SPIRIT: WHAT IS IT OR MORE ACCURATELY WHO IS HE?

The very word "Spirit" virtually defies analysis, so no wonder understanding the Holy Spirit is often difficult for believers to grasp. The term "Spirit" causes some to think of Him as a force or influence exerted by God, rather than a Person. Scripture clearly shows, however, that the Holy Spirit is God, coeternal with the Father and the Son, the third person of the Trinity.³ We see that not only is He called God, but also divine characteristics are ascribed to Him and divine works are attributed to Him.⁴ Throughout the Bible, we also find that personal pronouns are used for the Holy Spirit, personal characteristics are given to Him, personal actions and reactions are attributed to Him, and He maintains personal relationships.⁵ The Holy Spirit has been active in every work of God and present wherever God has been revealed. There are more than 350 passages of Scripture referencing the Holy Spirit, in which more than 50 names or titles may be seen. Not all the names for the Holy Spirit will be defined, though several will be used throughout this reader.

Along with the many names or titles given, there are a number of symbolic figures of speech used to reveal characteristics of the Spirit. The Jewish people expressed themselves more by word pictures than abstract terms. The teachings of Jesus are rich in symbols and figures of speech. A quick study of these symbols of the Holy Spirit will help us better understand the way the Holy Spirit works.

- **Wind:** John 3:8 says, "The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit." One of the meanings for "spirit" in the Hebrew and Greek is "breath" or "wind."⁶ On the Day of Pentecost, there came "a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm" (Acts 2:2). This symbolizes the Holy Spirit's invisible, everywhere present, power and life-sustaining influence.
- **Oil:** Oil is a substance used to anoint kings and priests and is symbolic of the Holy Spirit's empowering for service. All believers have the promise of this wonderful anointing, which will be addressed later.⁷

3 A term us to describe the tri-unity of God, the greatest of all the Divine mysteries. In the Trinity there are not three individuals, but three Personal Identities in the ONE God. See *Foundations of Pentecostal Theology*, by Guy P. Duffield and Nathaniel M. Van Cleave, LIFE Bible College at Los Angeles, CA 1983 pp. 86-114.

4 See Genesis 1:2; 2:7; 2 Samuel 23:1-3; Job 33:4; Psalm 69:25; 109:8; 104:30; 139:7; Micah 3:8; Mark 13:11; Luke 1:35; 2:25-32; John 3:5-7; 14:26; Acts 1:16; 11:27-28; Romans 8:10-11, 26-27; 15:13-19, 30; 1 Corinthians 2:10; 3:16; 2 Corinthians 3:17; 13:14; 2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 9:14; 2 Peter 1:21.

5 See Genesis 6:3; Isaiah 63:10; Matthew 28:19; Mark 3:29-30; John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:13-14; Acts 5:3, 9; 7:51; 8:39; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 20:28; 21:11; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 1 Corinthians 2:10-12; 12:8, 11; Romans 8:26-27; 15:19, 30; Hebrews 10:29; Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29.

6 Hebrew is the original language of the Old Testament and Greek the original language of the New Testament.

7 See Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:14-18; Acts 10:38; James 5:14; and 1 John 2:20, 27.

- **Dove:** All four Gospels give an account of Jesus' baptism. Luke records, "And the Holy Spirit came down in a bodily shape, like a dove on Him." Because the Holy Spirit is a spirit, He's not actually visible to us. On this particular occasion however, the Spirit took on a visible appearance and was seen by the people. The dove is an emblem of purity and harmlessness, and the form of the dove conveyed that the Spirit Jesus was empowered with was one of holiness and innocence — characteristics that believers who walk in the Spirit are to express.⁸

- **Water:** Water symbolizes the Spirit's refreshing, satisfaction, and fertilization. The Scriptures show water as "rain," "dew," "rivers," and "springs."⁹

- **Fire:** Fire speaks of the Holy Spirit's "power" and "purging." For believers to function with the fullness of the Holy Spirit's power, it is necessary to experience His refining and cleansing.¹⁰

- **Wine:** This seems to call attention to the spiritually stimulating and joy-giving characteristic of the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence. On the Day of Pentecost, some observers who heard the believers speak in tongues, ridiculed saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!" Peter stepped forward and explained that they were not drunk but rather filled with the Spirit, just as was foretold by the prophet Joel (Acts 2:13-18). This infilling will be explained below.¹¹

The Holy Spirit's role in the lives of believers is absolutely essential. It is His arrival (or outpouring) on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), however, that elicits so many of the questions previously mentioned. Let's mutually discover the answers that will not only bring liberating freedom but, most importantly, the fullness Jesus had in mind for every believer when He promised the Holy Spirit.

ARE THE HOLY GHOST AND THE HOLY SPIRIT THE SAME THING?

As mentioned above, there are many names for God's Spirit in Scripture. The title most used by believers today is "Holy Spirit." In some contexts, He is referred to as the Holy Ghost.¹² The term "ghost" came from early translations of the Bible.¹³ As archeological findings continued to be unearthed and our knowledge of the original language increased, a clearer and more accurate translation was discovered to be "Spirit." Although some have held to tradition and continue to use the title Holy "Ghost" rather than "Spirit," the terms are synonymous.

8 See Genesis 8:8-12; Psalm 68:13; Matthew 3:16; 10:16; and Galatians 5:16-24.

9 See Ezekiel 36:25-27; Joel 2:23-29; John 4:14; 7:38-39; and 1 Corinthians 10:4.

10 See 1 Kings 18:38; Isaiah 4:4; 6:6-7; and Acts 2:3.

11 See Psalm 104:15; Isaiah 55:1; Acts 2:13; and Ephesians 5:18.

12 The term "Ghost" is used in certain Bible translations and is historically common vernacular with some churches and cultures.

13 Most notably The King James Version published in 1611.

Again, there are more than 50 names used for the Holy Spirit. Here are several that specifically help to reveal His characteristics:

- **The Spirit of God:** “Don’t you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16).
- **The Spirit:** “But it was to us that God revealed these things by His Spirit. For His Spirit searches out everything and shows us God’s deep secrets” (1 Corinthians 2:10).
- **The Spirit of the Living God:** “Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This ‘letter’ is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts” (2 Corinthians 3:3).
- **The Spirit of Christ:** “But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to Him at all).” (Romans 8:9)
- **The Spirit of Jesus Christ:** “For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance” (Philippians 1:19).
- **The Spirit of His Son:** “And because we are His children, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, ‘Abba, Father’” (Galatians 4:6).
- **The Spirit of Holiness:** “And declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:4 nkjv).
- **The Spirit of Fire:** “I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be His slave and carry His sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire” (Matthew 3:11).
- **The Spirit of Truth:** “When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future” (John 16:13).
- **The Spirit of Life:** “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2 nkjv).
- **The Spirit of Glory:** “If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified” (1 Peter 4:14 nkjv).
- **The Spirit of Grace:** “Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?” (Hebrews 10:29 nkjv).
- **The Eternal Spirit:** “Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins” (Hebrews 9:14).

- **The Holy Spirit of Promise:** “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise” (Ephesians 1:13 nkjv).
- **The Advocate (Comforter in many translations):** “But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send Him to you” (John 16:7).

Each of these titles for the Holy Spirit could be a study in and of themselves. Let’s address one in particular because it reveals the significance of His ministry to believers. Jesus told the disciples:

“If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive Him, because it isn’t looking for Him and doesn’t recognize Him. But you know Him, because He lives with you now and later will be in you.” (John 14:15-17)

WHAT IS AN ADVOCATE?

The Advocate given to the Church¹⁴ is the Holy Spirit. The word “advocate” comes from the Greek word Paraclete, meaning: “one who comes alongside,” as a “comforter,” “encourager,” or “counselor.”

Jesus uses the phrase “another Advocate” when referring to the Holy Spirit, which clearly indicates that there was one Advocate already present... He was referring to Himself. We know that Jesus was the first Advocate because Scripture tells us He was “Immanuel, God with us” (Matthew 1:23). He came alongside and walked with us. Jesus is essentially promising another helper just like Himself; “another Advocate” who would do the same things He did after His ascension.

This is good news for those of us who will admit our desperate need for just such an Advocate. After all, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.” Jesus said, “I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners” (Mark 2:17). I need an Advocate; how about you?!

This new Advocate—the Holy Spirit—would reveal and produce the characteristics (or fruit) of Jesus, as well as give the supernatural/spiritual abilities (or gifts) of Jesus. As mentioned above He is “The Spirit of Jesus Christ,” who works in us to become more Christ-like.

¹⁴ The capitalized use of Church indicates the worldwide Body/Bride of Christ as opposed to lower case usage of church, meaning local congregation.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN “THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT” AND “BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT”?

The New Testament designates the Holy Spirit’s relationship to the believer in three important ways—with, in, and upon.¹⁵ The first relationship of the Holy Spirit can be referred to as the **with** experience. This speaks of the Holy Spirit coming alongside of unbelievers to convict them of their sin and convince them that Jesus is the answer. The Holy Spirit continues this work today (John 16:7-8).

The second experience, known as the **in** experience refers to the Holy Spirit indwelling believers when they accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior (1 Corinthians 6:19). These first two experiences, with and in, are mentioned in John 14:16-17:

*And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive Him, because it isn’t looking for Him and doesn’t recognize Him. But you know Him, because He lives **with** you now and later will be **in** you.*

In the case of the disciples, after Jesus was crucified and resurrected, He breathed His Holy Spirit into them. This is the moment the Holy Spirit went from with to in. For us believers, we move from having the Holy Spirit with us, as a convicting and convincing agent, to in us at the moment we commit our hearts to Christ (Romans 8:9). To be “born again” is to receive the Holy Spirit: He lives in us. This is when the Holy Spirit baptizes the believer into the Body of Christ: “The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).

But God has something more—the beautiful, empowering **upon** relationship of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised this work of the Holy Spirit prior to His ascension. In Acts 1:8 He said “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” We read about the fulfillment of this promise on The Day of Pentecost, recorded in the second chapter of Acts. There we see how, as they prayed, the Holy Spirit initially settled upon each of them. This same Holy Spirit who was with them previously, then in them, came upon them to empower them for service.

On the Day of Pentecost, the disciples went from being a small, timid group to those who were “filled with power.” At that moment, the Church was born, their numbers began to grow rapidly, and the world was forever changed. The Spirit would flow

¹⁵ With, in, and upon are three distinct Greek words—para, en, and epi—used throughout the New Testament.

not just in them, but now through them by touching the lives of those around them. Jesus describes this experience in John 7:38: “Anyone who believes in me may come

and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’” This act of empowering the believer is known as the Baptism with the Holy Spirit or the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct experience. An example of this is seen when Paul came to the church in Ephesus. Apparently he found that the believers’ experience was lacking: possibly in love, joy, or zeal. He asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” This question makes no sense if the full relationship with the Holy Spirit comes simultaneously with conversion. It indicates something deeper that came when Paul laid his hands upon them in Acts 19:6: “and the Spirit came upon them.”

“God wants your life not to just be indwelt or even filled with the Spirit. He wants your life to overflow.” *Chuck Smith*

The purpose of this Holy Spirit fullness in the life of the believer is to both release power for ministry that goes beyond human ability and to bring greater intimacy with God. This baptism is given so that we would become fully empowered witnesses of Jesus Christ and continue His ministry here on earth. The Holy Spirit fullness comes with supernatural gifts, described with great detail in 1 Corinthians 12–14. I would encourage you to take the time, even now, to read these chapters.

Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:1

We all love gifts, especially when they are spectacular, incredibly useful, beneficial, and unattainable by our own effort. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are exactly that and are meant to build us up and overflow to bless others. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul emphasizes that there is to be no division among believers on the grounds of the gifts because they are provided from God in all their diversity. We are reminded that God deals with us as individuals. He does not give out His gifts indiscriminately, but meets the needs and capacity of each of us.

This distinct empowering is available to all believers. The New Testament gives examples of various ways this great experience was received:

1. Suddenly, while sitting and expecting Him to come (Acts 2:1-4);
2. Instantly and unexpectedly, while listening to a sermon (Acts 10:44-46);
3. Through the laying on of the Apostles’ hands (Acts 8:14-17; 9:17; 19:6);
4. Through personal prayer and faith (Luke 11:9-13; John 7:37-39).

ARE THE GIFTS FOR TODAY?

There are some who believe the Holy Spirit gifts were given and exercised only during the birth of the Church, while the Apostles still lived. Their view is that these gifts simply served as a means to spread the Good News because of their confirming signs. This stems from an interpretation of 1 Corinthians 13:10: "But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away" (KJV). Those who hold this position believe that the signs and gifts were incomplete expressions of God's working. When the text of the Scriptures came to a conclusion (near the end of the first century), a complete "perfect" expression was in place, the gifts were no longer needed, and therefore ceased.

Many others believe that the gifts are indeed for today and are available to all until the Return of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:39). We believe that though the Scriptures are complete, they instruct us to welcome the Holy Spirit gifts and ministries in our lives, to round out our sufficiency for ministry to a needy world— through the Word preached and the Word confirmed. In fact Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 14:1 that we are to desire the spiritual gifts that the Spirit gives. Since the church is still growing, it is evident that these confirming signs are still needed.

Some see "the perfect" as referring to the full revelation given in the NT itself which when it would come to completion would do away with the "partial" forms of charismatic revelation. This of course is an impossible view, and what neither Paul nor the Corinthians could possibly have understood the text to mean. In its context, "the perfect" has to do with the end of the age and the coming of God's kingdom. At the coming of Christ the final purpose of God's saving work will have been reached; at that point those gifts now necessary for the building up of the church in the present age will disappear, because "the complete" will have come."¹⁷

Not until the arrival of God's kingdom, will everything be made perfect and complete. At that time, all the spiritual gifts will disappear. Because gifts are given for the building up of the body of Christ, they will no longer be needed. The body will be complete, and God's kingdom will have arrived. When Paul wrote of "the perfect," he wrote of the coming end, when we will see Christ face to face. God gives believers spiritual gifts for their lives on earth, in order to build up, serve, and strengthen fellow Christians. The spiritual gifts are for the church. In eternity, we will be made perfect and complete and will be in the very presence of God. We will no longer need the spiritual gifts, so they will come to an end."¹⁸

17 Fee, Gordon, *New International Commentary on the New Testament - 1 Corinthians*, pp. 645-646

18 Barton, Bruce, *Life Application Commentary - 1 Corinthians*, p. 192

In the context of 1 Corinthians 13:10, the time when “the perfect” comes, clearly refers to the time Christ returns. Spiritual gifts then, will last among believers until that time. This means that we have a clear biblical statement that these gifts are expected to continue through the entire church age and to function for the benefit of the church until Jesus returns.¹⁹

There is no reasonable, biblical or historical evidence that spiritual gifts have ceased. All the spiritual gifts are for today.

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FRUIT AND THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

It is critical to a healthy spiritual life that these two areas of blessing—fruit and gifts—be understood in their relationship to, and distinction from, each other. The fruit of the Spirit has to do with spiritual **character**. The gifts of the Spirit have to do with spiritual **capabilities** in service of the Lord. Both are to bring life!

The fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit are available to all Christians who surrender their ways for His. Paul tells the church in Ephesus that from God’s “glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit” (Ephesians 3:16). This empowerment to live out the Christian life comes in two parts: conditions (fruit) and resources (gifts). Before discussing the fruit and gifts, let’s look at the Spirit’s role in the lives of believers and explain the unique differences.

Though there are definite differences between the fruit and the gifts, there is also a vital relationship between the two. A study in 1 Corinthians 12-14 emphasizes the importance of having the fruit of the Spirit in relation to the gifts. Paul makes it clear that the gifts without the fruit (love being the essence, which will be explained below) are powerless and of little use. In fact, he goes as far as to say they are “nothing” (1 Corinthians 13:1-2).

WHAT IS THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HOW IS IT PRODUCED?

The fruit of the Spirit is the true characteristic of the Christian life. It is the fruit of character, shown in practical daily life of believers, that gives evidence of the reality of Christ in them. The fruit, then, is the **CONDITION** produced in the lives of believers.

This list of spiritual qualities, known as fruit, found in Galatians 5:22-23, is preceded by what Paul calls the “works of the flesh.” There is a “constant fight” (v. 17) between two forces in our lives: the flesh and the Spirit. A clear contrast is shown between

¹⁹ Grudem, Wayne, *Systematic Theology*, p. 1035

Spirit-led people who are recognized by their fruit and flesh-driven people who are recognized by their works. The principle of bearing fruit is a principle of life. Fruit is not made (works/flesh); rather it grows (grace/Spirit). It is important to distinguish that the Holy Spirit, not ourselves, produces these qualities in response to our choice and continued willingness to be guided (v. 16), directed (v. 18), and live (v. 25) according to His leading.

"It is the Holy Spirit who produces this kind of fruit in our lives" (v. 22):

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control

Jesus said: "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples" (John 13:35). Spiritual fruit is the very character of Christ: love in its entire dimension. Love is indeed key: the gifts without the fruit (love being the essence) are powerless and of little use.

Some theologians hold the position that the list in Galatians 5:22-23 may be seen as facets of the one fruit of vine, that being love. The spiritual qualities are expressed as characterizations of love in this way:

- Joy is love celebrating.
- Peace is love at rest.
- Patience is love untiring.
- Kindness is love enduring.
- Goodness is love in action.
- Faithfulness is love on the battlefield.
- Gentleness is love under discipline.
- Self-control is love in training.

Jesus reveals the secrets of bearing fruit in John 15:4-10:

"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in Me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing . . . if you remain in Me and My words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father. I have loved you even as the Father has loved Me. Remain in My love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in His love."

First, we must remain in Him (vv. 4-5). The branch is an integral part of the vine. It grows from it. This is why the branch must never be severed from the vine, as the vine is the source of its life.

Second, we must yield to discipline (pruning, v. 2). The pruning process in the lives of true believers is never an easy one. After explaining the contrast between being Spirit-led or flesh-driven, Paul said it this way:

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Galatians 5:24-25

Walking in the Spirit is a walk of surrender, which is best described: to give up, give in, and give over our desires, thoughts, and ways to the Lord. It is only then that we will finally be empowered with the **conditions** (*fruits*) and **resources** (*gifts*) of the Holy Spirit to break **with** those areas in which we have long desired to experience breakthrough.

As a result of our surrender to the Spirit in our lives, He produces and provides fruit, which accompany our walk with Him.

The goal for a follower of Jesus is to walk in both the power and the character of the Kingdom. God makes His power and authority available to produce a different kind of lifestyle in the believer—one that attracts others by its light in contrast to the darkness of the world. And like salt, the lives of believers are supposed to make a difference in the world around them. Matt. 5:13-16²⁰

WHAT ARE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Again, the purpose of Holy Spirit fullness in the life of the believer is to both release power for ministry that goes beyond human ability and to bring greater intimacy with God. The goal is that we would become fully empowered witnesses of Jesus Christ and continue His ministry here on earth. The gifts, then, are the RESOURCES provided through us. As we will see, the purpose of the spiritual gifts is the edification of the Church. If the exercise of the gifts do not edify and build up the Church, they are valueless (1 Corinthians 14:12).

Before continuing this study on the Gifts of the Spirit, please take the time to read 1 Corinthians 12–14, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4, each written by the Apostle Paul. In these letters to the churches in Rome, Corinth, and Ephesus, Paul gives a full orderly statement of the great principles of the Gospel he preached. He seeks to give the new believers a firm foundation and to lead them to maturity. Also found in these references are three specific groupings of gifts often referred to as: The **Manifestation Gifts**, The **Motivation Gifts**, and The **Ministry Gifts**. Let's take a look at each.

20 Hunter, Todd, New Spirit Filled Life Bible: Kingdom Dynamics on Galatians 5:16-26, Thomas Nelson Inc., 2002, Nashville, TN.

In the First letter to Corinthians, Paul provides straightforward instructions to a church in chaos. The Corinthian believers were abusing their gifts and calling attention to themselves. In essence they were looking to the gifts rather than the Giver of those gifts. In their zeal, they regarded the gifts as ends in themselves. Paul brings explicit teaching to the Corinthian church. It is here that we find perhaps the best-known passage about Holy Spirit gifts.

At the time Paul wrote this letter it was accepted that some, who were especially close to the divine, had special spiritual abilities. Usually this was understood in terms of visions, ecstatic speech, and the like. They were often seen as “spectacular.” From the Day of Pentecost on, there were some within the Church who exercised such spiritual gifts. Many early believers saw this as the hallmark of a “spiritual” man. By comparison, the practice of simple, righteous, Christian character and virtue seemed to be dull and colorless. It seems that this young church had not learned the truth that the gifts without the fruit are of little use.

Paul’s address is epoch-making and gives application to the Church even today. He begins his address on the Spirit Gifts, found in 1 Corinthians 12, with these words:

Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don’t want you to misunderstand this.”
1 Corinthians 12:1

He then emphasizes that it is the Lordship of Christ that is important and that all spiritual gifts must be brought to this standard. If their use is contrary to Christ, they are not of God. Paul does not deny that the “spectacular” gifts have their place. However, he insists that the important thing is the manifestation of ethical qualities, especially love, which the presence of the Spirit in the heart of the believer makes possible (see 1 Corinthians 13:13; 14:1; Galatians 5:22).

In their pride, the Corinthians had apparently used the gifts in such a way that it caused division. They actually had set up one against another on the basis of possession or otherwise of this or that gift. Paul lovingly, yet boldly, corrects this behavior by acknowledging that there is diversity in the gifts, yet it is the same Spirit. After all, the Spirit does not fight against Himself. Paul emphasizes this beauty of unity and diversity in these gifts.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other (vv. 4-7).

As we submit to and allow the Holy Spirit to reign in our lives, He then decides and distributes which gifts each person should have for His purposes in their walk with Him.

What follows (vv. 8-10) is a list of what could be called the **Manifestation Gifts**. They are cataloged into three areas of usage.

with INTUITION:

- **Wisdom**—perspective on God’s will in given situations; a sense of divine direction; and the ability to give wise counsel. It is an insight for “practical conduct or action,” a spiritual utterance at a given moment, supernaturally disclosing the mind, purpose, and will of God.
- **Knowledge**—clear understanding and revelation of God’s will; insight on situations without human resource/communication; requires objective understanding concerning divine things. It is insight into the principles of faith that form a “basis for action,” supernatural revelation of information pertaining to a person or event, given for a specific purpose, usually having to do with an immediate need.
- **Discernment**—detecting and distinguishing between spirits; insight of the spiritual realm and activities; revelation of plans and purposes of the enemy; the ability to detect the true source of circumstances or motives of people.

with ACTION:

- **Faith**—simple trust; ability to believe without doubt; to trust completely and combat unbelief; inner, undeniable conviction of God’s words. It is a unique form of faith that goes beyond the natural faith and saving faith, one that does not doubt in the face of what might seem “impossible.”
- **Healing**—physical, emotional, or mental healing without human aid.
- **Miracles**—intervene/counteract natural earthly forces. It is a divine enablement to do something that could not be done naturally.

with COMMUNICATION:

- **Prophecy**—anointed proclamation in known languages not of intellect that may reveal future events and indicate the divine will for man; may be, and encouraged to be, operated by all who are filled with the Holy Spirit. It benefits believers and convicts unbelievers. Prophecy is divine revelations from God.
- **Tongues**—the supernatural ability to speak a language “existent or unknown” and not previously learned; used to give praise to God (Acts 2:11; 1 Corinthians 14:16); assists the believer to pray according to the will of God (Romans 8:26; 1 Corinthians 14:2, 14-16). It is also one of the signs that Jesus said would characterize believers (Mark 16:16-19) and therefore is an evidence of the baptism with the Holy Spirit. It is mostly a private exercise but can be public, if interpreted.²¹
- **Interpretation of Tongues**—ability to reveal the meaning of a supernatural tongue; not a translation, but rather a declaration of its meaning.

²¹ For more on tongues, see the reader *The Holy Spirit Gifts: Tongues for Today*, by Pastor Marty Walker, The Sanctuary, Santa Clarita, CA, 2010.

It is important to understand that the Holy Spirit gifts are supernatural! They go beyond our human abilities. For instance, we may know people who are wise based on their experience and education. The Holy Spirit gifts are different; they exceed what can be imparted naturally.

The Manifestation Gifts cover our whole lives. They are given to permeate all we think, do, and say. They are to bring freedom, first individually then to others. If, and when, the Holy Spirit prompts us to move with (or walk out) any of the Manifestation Gifts we can be sure He will also empower us. Jesus told His disciples, “. . . don’t worry about how to respond or what to say. God will give you the right words at the right time. For it is not you who will be speaking—it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you” (Matthew 10:19-20).

After listing these Manifestation Gifts, Paul returns to his instructions regarding unity in diversity. He shows by graphic illustration that the church is to function spiritually as our bodies do naturally. Each part is important. It is a reminder that the arrangement of the body is not by chance, but by God’s ordering. Whenever we begin to think about our own importance, the possibility of real ministry is gone. The point of all this is to encourage these new believers to earnestly desire the gifts, but bring correction so that all is done in love and order, with the aim to edify others (1 Corinthians 13-14). This again emphasizes the crucial relationship between the fruit and the gifts.

In Romans 12, Paul uses much of these same principles to teach the new believers how to live in Christ. Instead of living by the standards of the world, Paul encourages them to let God change how they think and act. Rome contained people of the most diverse kinds of background, environment, temperament, and capacity. Since they became Christians, they had also been given a variety of spiritual gifts. Since each gift is unique, Paul cautions these believers not to think more highly of themselves than they really are, but rather measure themselves by God’s standards and the faith and grace He imparts.

Again, to illustrate what he means, Paul uses the figure of a human body as he did with the Corinthians. Each part has its own distinctive work to do; yet in a healthy body all the parts function in harmony and interdependently. Paul implores them to serve in whatever way both faithfully and heartily for the good of the whole.

Our different gifts and abilities should make us love and depend more on one another, and therefore should make us more united as one body in Christ (vv. 4-5). Paul then lists what might be called the **Motivational Gifts**. These gifts are to be used in the Body of Christ and the community at large. “In His grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well” (v. 6).

- To prophesy— speak out with as much faith as God has given you (v. 6)
- Serving others—serve people well (v. 7)
- Teaching—teach well (v. 7)
- An encourager— be encouraging (v. 8)

- Giving— give generously (v. 8)
- Leadership— take the responsibility seriously (v. 8)
- Showing kindness—do it gladly (v. 8) (Especially to those in the family of faith—Galatians 6:10.)

These Motivational Gifts are given to stimulate love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24). They are about exhorting those with whom we come in contact. Exhortation is the ability to encourage with both correction **and** direction in a given situation/conversation.

Motivation is simply the reasons behind our actions; often these Holy Spirit motivational gifts determine and direct our spiritual life and behavior. The need to be motivated is not a bad thing. However, if the inspiration is based in human ambition, our actions will be short lived and limited in their effect. Under the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, on the other hand, our decisions have greater impact.

Paul continues with the church at Rome (vv. 9-21) by showing them the kind of behavior that is Christlike. Mutual love, kindness, and respect within the Christian community is expected, but there is something deeper in this passage—love and forgiveness to those outside the fellowship, even to those who persecute them and wish them ill. The gifts must always function with the fruit of Christian character.

In Ephesians 4, Paul carries the illustration of the body a step further. The emphasis is laid on the relation, which the church, as the body, bears to Christ as the head. This letter to the church at Ephesus unveils the “mystery” of the church like no other Epistle. God’s wonderful plan is revealed:

1. To form a body to express Christ’s fullness on Earth (1:15-23);
2. To accomplish this by uniting one people—both Jew and Gentile, among whom God Himself dwells (2:11–3:7); and
3. To equip, empower, and mature this people so they extend Christ’s victory over evil (3:10–20; 6:12–20).

Before addressing spiritual gifts, Paul again emphasizes that unity is the responsibility of each believer and is to be earnestly pursued (vv. 2–6). He then lists what we’ll call the Ministry Gifts. “Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do His work and build up the Church, the Body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ” (vv. 12-13).

The **Ministry Gifts** are considered by many as positional roles, appointed by God to the Church (1 Corinthians 12:28), and are for the practical empowering of the saints in the local congregation for the work of the ministry. They are given alongside the supernatural empowering of the Holy Spirit. Often, they are referred to as the “office” gifts.

1. Apostles—Church practitioners, bringing reform and promoting Body health
2. Prophets—anoointed with the abovementioned “thinking” and “speaking” gifts
3. Evangelists—those who bring the Good News wherever they go
4. Pastors—shepherding within the flocks of “local congregations”
5. Teachers—unashamed and rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15)

As an addendum to gifts listed above, Paul also mentioned that among the “roles” God has appointed in the Church, are “those who can help others” (1 Corinthians 12:28). This “gift of helps” often goes unrecognized, because it is usually done behind the scenes. It looks for ways to come alongside ministries and facilitate the organization of the church. Acts, Chapter 6, gives a snapshot of what the ministry of “helps” looks like as the Apostles “select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom” (v. 3). They were given the responsibility of running a food program (v. 2). I have often referred to this ministry of helps as an administrative-ministry or “admin-istry” in the church. Many local congregations could not last without these selfless servants who “just wanna help” in any way they can.

**God gives believers spiritual gifts for their lives on earth
in order to build up, serve, and strengthen fellow Christians.
The spiritual gifts are for the Church TODAY!**

This truth has guided our church leadership. In fact, the fifth point in our church Staff Governing Values aptly reads: “We are equals in significance. We are alike in value—We are different in authority and responsibility.”

Studying the Ministry Gifts beautifully reveals that God is concerned about the well being of the Church. So much so, He has designed specific leadership positions of responsibility to provide a complete covering. In doing so, God also prioritizes the fellowship of the church. This fellowship is essential for encouragement, accountability, and growth.

*And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.
Hebrews 10:25*

This belonging enables Christians to be trained in skilled-servant work, serving within Christ’s body (the Church). It gives a place for believers to learn to work together, becoming efficient and graceful in response to the Holy Spirit’s requests. God uses the local congregation to mature His children into spiritual adults, fully developed within and without—more alive like Christ today than yesterday, and more like Him tomorrow than today (see Ephesians 4:12-13).

HOW ARE THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT EXERCISED?

Scripture is clear that the gifts must be exercised with the fruit of character, the aim of building up the Church, and for the glory of God. Imagine the fruit without the gifts. Consider the gift of healing without the fruit of love? How effective would the gift of healing be without love for the aching humanity so desperately in need of healing?

Or how could the *gift of faith* operate without the *fruit of patience*? When the Holy Spirit produces the *fruit of patience*, gentleness, and self-control in the life of a believer, that kind of abundance works together so that there is *supernatural* understanding as to when, how, and where to speak the *gifts* of prophecy, discernment, wisdom, or words of knowledge.

Spiritual gifts are the “power tools” of the Church. As the manifestation of the Spirit, they are all supernatural empowerments: for example, to speak a word of wisdom, to bring about healings, to work miracles, to discern various spirits—all are for the benefit of *others*. When the spiritual gifts operate, the Holy Spirit is directly and powerfully on the scene.

A complementary purpose of the gifts is to bring about involvement, participation, and partnership of all believers. “A spiritual gift is given to each of us . . . ” (1 Corinthians 12:7). Not to a few—such as pastors and teachers—rather, each person is to be a channel for some particular work of the Holy Spirit. Everyone is to be actively involved. The Holy Spirit wishes to reveal Himself not through a few but many, and *ultimately, all believers*. Lastly, the spiritual gifts, being totally different from natural abilities, serve to honor God. God, not man, should receive all the praise and glory when any of the gifts are in operation.

HOW DO I RECEIVE THE GIFTS I NEED... AND DESIRE? WHAT GIFTS SHOULD I EXPECT?

Just as the church of Rome, Corinth, and Ephesus, we have much to take to heart from the Holy Spirit inspired words regarding the gifts of the Spirit. These timeless truths from Scripture reach into today and call for growth, grace, and generosity in how we live as the Body of Christ and function in the gifts He provides.

Let us remember the beauty of unity and diversity in these gifts. “It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.” (1 Corinthians 12:11) The gifts He gives to one are to advance the same divine purpose as the different gifts He gives to another. There are different ways of serving, but that is not what is important. The gifts are about Christ and His Church not about the individual who exercises the gift.

The gifts were never meant to cause division or elitism but rather to encourage, edify, and strengthen the Body of Christ. Is it appropriate to ask for specific gifts? Absolutely! We are to earnestly desire spiritual gifts, but pursue love (1 Corinthians

14:1). It is important to not just seek the gifts themselves but rather the Giver of the gifts—trusting He will give everything we need to live a godly life (2 Peter 1:3). When the fruit of the Holy Spirit characterizes our hearts, it doesn't matter whether we have one or all of the gifts; our identity and security is found in the Father's love, shown through His Son Jesus.

CONCLUSION

The main intent of this writing is to propose that we love one another! The fruit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit empower us with the conditions and resources to do just that! We do this best when we offer ourselves to God and allow His Spirit to produce the fruit and distribute the gifts as He sees fit. Once again, surrender and submission to God's plan and purpose in our lives will bring the unity and peace we so earnestly desire.

The end result of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives is *deep and lasting* peace. Unlike worldly peace, which is usually defined as the absence of conflict, the Holy Spirit's peace is a confident assurance *in the midst* of any circumstance. With this peace, there is no need to regret the past, fear the present, or worry about the future.

Sin, fear, uncertainty, doubt, and numerous other forces are at war within us. Yet, the Holy Spirit brings the peace of God into our hearts and lives, to restrain these hostile forces and offer comfort in place of conflict. Jesus never promised His followers comfortable lives, but that our lives would be *comforted*. Jesus says He will give us His peace if we are willing to accept it; "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to Me. Get away with Me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with Me and work with Me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill fitting on you. Keep company with Me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly" (Matthew 11:28-30 msg). If your life is full of stress, allow the Holy Spirit to fill you with His peace. (See Philippians 4:6-7 for more on experiencing God's peace.)

I have endeavored to address some of the most frequent questions and concerns I have heard regarding the Holy Spirit's ongoing work in the Church. I hope and pray that this will be a help to your personal growth.

Many people are unaware of the Holy Spirit's activities today. But to those who believe Christ's words and understand the Spirit's power, there is a whole new way to live.

Living as Loved!!



Pastor Marty Walker
The Sanctuary // 2017

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We grow a *community* of maturing lives
one at a time by first *understanding* then
helping each person fully embrace
God's love + truth.



thesanctuarychurch.com

26444 Friendly Valley Pkwy . Santa Clarita, CA . 91321 | 661.252.7255