

The background of the entire page is a vibrant, abstract image of flames in shades of yellow, orange, and red, creating a sense of fire and passion.

The Word *and* *The Spirit*

Ministry in the Power of the Holy Spirit

*"In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God
and the Word was God" John 1:1*

"And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters " Gen 1:2

APOSTLE PAUL GALLIGAN

REVIVAL MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

REVIVAL MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA **an apostolic ministry to the nations**

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Training & equipping workers for the harvest Matt.9:37-10:40, Lu.10:1-20
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The restoration of the five-fold ministry, Eph.4:11
Receiving again grace and apostleship, Rom.1:5
Making known the revelation of the mystery, Eph.3:2-11
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The Word and the Spirit

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SALVATION

Luke 19:1-10 records the story of Zaccheus receiving Jesus into his house as a guest, recognising Him as Lord, and offering to make amends for his misdealings as tax collector. Jesus said to him, *“today salvation has come to this house.”* It is a story of **repentance and faith bringing salvation**. Zaccheus had heard about Jesus. **Romans 10:17** tells us that faith comes by hearing.

How did Zaccheus receive salvation:

1. Having heard about Jesus, he desired to see Him;
2. Jesus met Zaccheus, responding to the faith in his heart;
3. Jesus came to his house;
4. Zaccheus received Jesus; he had a change of mind and responded to Jesus' word.
5. Jesus pronounced salvation, because he saw the **faith in Zaccheus' heart**, and heard Zaccheus **confess** that he would make restitution.

John 1:12 tells us that we are born again when we receive Jesus, having believed on His name.

Rom.10:9-19 tells us that we are to believe in our hearts that God has raised Jesus from the dead, and that we are to confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord. Thereby we are saved.

Salvation: word meaning

Strong's Concordance #4991 Gr, *Soteria*, meaning rescue or safety;

Translated: deliver, health, salvation, save, saving

From *Soter*, a deliverer, & *Sozo*, to save, to protect, to deliver

Compare with SC #3444 Heb, *yeshooaw*, something saved, deliverance, aid, victory, prosperity. All aspects of these word meanings are part of our salvation. Jesus brings salvation for the whole man.

HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU ARE SAVED?

Recall when you were saved!

What happened for you to know you were saved?

How did it happen?

What do you do if doubts come as to your salvation?

What does the Bible say? It is all about believing and confessing.

Rom.10:8 *“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart [that is, the word of faith which we preach].”*

v.9 Confess with your mouth what you believe with your heart.

v.10 Believe with your heart unto righteousness and confess your salvation.

v.11 As we trust in the Lord, He removes the shame.

v.12 The Lord is rich to all who call on Him.

v.13 Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.

Overcoming doubt by faith

The Word and the Spirit

We recognise that doubts come in our mind, but faith is from the heart. **Eph.6:16** tells us to take the **shield of faith** [that which we believe and confess] and deal with the doubts

Deut.30:14 *“But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.”*

What do we believe?

1. We believe in Jesus. **Jn.14:1** believe in Jesus; **Jn.6:29** believe in the One God sent.
2. Believe to be empowered by His Spirit. **Lu.24:49** Jesus promised the Spirit; **Acts 1:8** you will receive power.

SALVATION

What must we do to be saved?

Mk.1:15 Jesus said *“Repent and believe in the gospel.”*

Acts 3:19 Peter said *“Repent and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.”*

Acts 20:21 Paul said *“Repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Mk.16:16 Jesus said *“He who believes and is baptised will be saved.”*

To be saved we must repent and believe the gospel,

We must turn toward God and believe in Jesus Christ;

We must turn away from dead works of religion asking for forgiveness;

We need to believe and be baptised!

How are we saved?

- A) **We are saved by faith**, it is the gift of God **Eph.2:8**.
- B) **We are saved by the blood**, the atoning sacrifice **Eph.2:13**, **Heb.9:12**.
- C) **We are saved in one Spirit**, **Eph.2:18**, **Jn.3:5-6**

A) WE ARE SAVED BY FAITH

How does faith come?

1. By hearing the spoken [rhema] word of God. Rom.10:17 Most people who have come to faith have heard someone speak about Jesus Christ. This is the *‘rhema’* word, which is the quickened word of God to us.

Once we have heard, we believe; then we ‘confess’ with our mouths (**Rom.10:9-10**)

Hearing → Believing → Confessing

2. By believing the written [logos] word of God. Jn.20:31 John’s Gospel and the First Epistle of John are mostly about believing in the Son of God. Through believing you will have life, you will know the truth and you will know God the Father through Jesus Christ.

3. An understanding of faith from Genesis [Genesis is the seed book of the Bible].

The promised Seed

When God spoke to Adam and Eve after they had eaten of the forbidden fruit, Eve accused the serpent of deceiving her (**Gen.3:13**). In **Gen.3:15** God promises that the **seed** of the woman would crush the head of satan. This is the first preaching of the Gospel, foretelling the coming of Messiah, and telling of the battle between Jesus and satan with Jesus the victor.

The Word and the Spirit

Gen.3:20 Adam had faith, that is, he believed what God had said and in faith he named his wife Eve, *‘the mother of all living’*

Gen.3:21 The first blood was shed by God to cover the sin of Adam and Eve and He made clothing for them of the animal’s skin. He covered their **“nakedness”**.

The **seed** of the woman God spoke of is Jesus Christ. The Christ [Messiah] was born of a woman (**Gal.4:4**)

Abraham

Abraham was given a promise of one who would come from his body [a **seed**] who would be a blessing to all peoples [nations]. **Gen.12:3** *“In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”* **Gen.15:2-6** Abraham was childless even though God had promised him an heir. God said *“one who will come from your own body shall be your heir”*. Abraham believed God and the LORD accounted it to him for righteousness (**v.6**). Abraham was a man of faith. The **seed** promised to Eve and the **seed** promised to Abraham both speak of Jesus Christ coming (**Gal.3:16**). Then through Jesus Christ the promise of God is given to all who are in Christ *“and if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise”* **Gal.3:29**. Abraham believed *“in hope against hope”* **Rom.4:18**.

SALVATION = ETERNAL LIFE

What does **Jn.3:16-17** promise? We receive **eternal life** by believing the testimony of the Word of God concerning Jesus Christ. Once we believe in Jesus Christ we are then able to receive Him and *“God gives us the right to become His children”* **Jn. 1:12**.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SUBJECT and OBJECT OF OUR BELIEVING.

Jn.14:6 We come to the Father through Jesus.

Jn.14:9 We see the Father in Jesus.

Phil.3:3 We rejoice in Christ Jesus.

Phil.3:8-11 Nothing else matters but to be *“found in Him”* and to *“attain to the resurrection of the dead.”*

Phil.3:14 God has called us *“upward”* in Christ Jesus.

Phil.3:20 Our heavenly citizenship depends upon Christ Jesus.

Eph.1:15-18 Our understanding of the hope to which we have been called depends upon our

“faith in the Lord Jesus”.

Saved by grace

Gen.6:8 Noah is an example of one who believed God in the midst of an unbelieving people. He found *“grace in the eyes of God”*, so God instructed him to build an ark of salvation.

v.14 Noah was obedient – his faith led to action. **To hear and to obey is faith.**

LOGOS and RHEMA

In the New Testament, two Greek words appear that are usually translated by the same English word, and that word is *“word”*. The Greek words are *logos* and *rhema*.

Jn.1:1 *“In the beginning was the Word [Logos]”*. Here the **Logos** refers to Jesus, He is the Word. In many other verses *logos* is translated **word** [approx. 200 times]. The *logos* refers to the Bible being the word of God. The *logos* is the written, objective word of God, recorded in total for us.

The Word and the Spirit

Matt.4:4 “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word [rhema] that proceeds from the mouth of God*”. The *rhema* is the quickened word, a now word, proceeding from the mouth of God. It is the *rhema* word that quickens faith **Rom.10:17**; it is the *rhema* word that is in our mouth and in our heart **Rom.10:8**; it is the *rhema* word that is the sword of the Spirit **Eph.6:17**.

B) WE ARE SAVED BY BLOOD

When God was about to rescue the Israelites from bondage in Egypt, He promised that the **blood** on their houses would be “*a sign*” (**Ex.12:13**). He promised to “*pass over*” those houses and not destroy them. The **blood** was the means of deliverance for the individual, the family and the nation.

The Old Covenant given at Mt Sinai (**Ex.24:1-3**) was sealed by the blood on the altar (**v.6**), then by the blood on the people (**v.8**). God promised to meet with the children of Israel at the Mercy Seat (**Ex.25:22**) because **blood** was placed on the mercy seat. Compare this with **Heb. 9:11-14**. Jesus our High Priest took His own blood into the Most Holy Place, placing it on the Mercy Seat in heaven above. His blood atones for us. Under the Law of Moses we are guilty and deserve the death penalty but Jesus died for us and took His shed blood into God’s tabernacle, made without human hands.

Heb.9:22 “*Without the shedding of blood there is no remission.*” The shed blood of Christ reconciles us to God. It is as we believe this that we have life and triumph over sin. **Rom.5:9** “*Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*” We have been redeemed “*with the precious blood of Christ*” **1Pet.1:19**.

New Covenant

At the Last Supper with His disciples, Jesus inaugurated the New Covenant (**Matt.26:26-29**).

v.28 “*For this is My blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*” **Heb.8:8-12** refers to this new covenant, and **Heb.10:16-18** speaks of the permanency of Jesus sacrifice. **Jesus died once, for all**. There is no further sacrifice needed.

C) WE ARE SAVED IN ONE SPIRIT.

The promise of the Spirit coming, begins to be fulfilled with the new birth: “*unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*” **Jn.3:3**. “*Unless one is born of the water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*” **Jn.3:5**. It is as we are born of the Spirit of God that we are saved. We believe in our hearts that Jesus has reconciled us to God and “*through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father*” **Eph.2:18**. We confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord. **1 Cor.12:3** “*No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.*” It is God’s intention that we be born again of the Spirit.

We worship God in the Spirit (**Phil.3:3**). “*God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*” **Jn.4:24**

What happens when we are born again of the Spirit?

Once we are born again the whole nature of the human being begins to be sanctified - body, soul and spirit (**1 Thess.5:23**) and to be “*preserved blameless*”. Previously we were dead to God through sin; we have now been made alive. Where we were dead because of sin, we are now alive because of righteousness. (**Eph.2:2**)

The Word and the Spirit

Eph.2:4-5 *“But God even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).”*

Rom. 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Rom. 6:11 *“Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Through faith in Jesus Christ we are born again of the Spirit who reminds us and teaches us all things. (**Jn 14:26**)

The anointing of the Spirit is for a function (**1 Jn 2:20,27**) and we are to *“stir up the gift of God”* which is in us (**2 Tim.1:6**); for we are *“.born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.”* (**1 Pet.1:23**)

WE ARE SAVED BY FAITH, BY THE BLOOD, THROUGH THE SPIRIT

We are saved through faith. Our faith grows through believing the Word of God; through listening to and obeying the Word of God.

We are saved through the blood of Jesus Christ which was shed on Calvary to take away the sin of the world and was placed by Jesus on the mercy seat above as an atonement for sin.

The Holy Spirit ministers conviction of sin into our lives and reveals Jesus Christ the Saviour to us.

We are born again of the Spirit when we believe in Jesus, accepting the forgiveness of our sins through His blood and receiving Him into our lives as Lord.

THE WORD OF GOD.

INTRODUCTION

Lu. 6:46-49 *“But why do you call me, “Lord, Lord”, and not do the things which I say? Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”*

It is not enough to hear the word. **We are to be hearing the word and doing!** James 1:22

THE WORD OF GOD IN GENESIS.

God’s word is creative

Gen.1:3 *“Then God said...”*. And in verses 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26.

“God said” is the Word of God at work - Jesus creating all things **Jn.1:3**.

God’s word is a creative word: **Heb.11:3** *“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God.”* **Ps.33:6** *“By the word of the LORD the heavens were made.”*

God’s word is to be obeyed

Gen.2:16-17 God commands the man not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Obedience to His word would bring life; disobedience brought death.

v.18 God reveals His concern and care for the man.

Gen.3:1-5 The tempter sows seeds of doubt in Eve’s mind about trusting God’s word.

Doubt leads to disobedience and separation from God, leading to spiritual death.

God’s word is prophetic

Gen.3:14-19 The prophetic decrees of God, bringing prophetic judgement. Every word of God shall surely come to pass. **V.15** is especially significant. What is the fulfillment of this verse?

Gen.6:13 -21 The word of God came to Noah, *“and God said to Noah”*; God’s word to Noah was prophetic, telling him what would happen.

God’s word releases faith

Gen.15:1, 4-6 *“The word of the LORD came to Abram.”*

v.6 Abram believed God’s word, *“and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”*

“Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God” **Rom.10:17**.

JESUS IS THE WORD

Word in the Greek text is *logos*. Jesus is the living *Logos* [Word]; the Bible is the written *logos*; the Holy Spirit utters the spoken *logos*.

Jn.1:1-5 Jesus is the Word of God

The Word and the Spirit

v.14 He, *“the Word became flesh and lived (dwelt) among us”*.

v.16-17 The living Word brought grace and truth and all His fullness.

v.29 Jesus is revealed as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

1Jn1:1-3 He is the Word of life.

Do you know Jesus, the Word of life? Have you seen and witnessed His power? Do you declare to others what you have seen and heard?

THE SEED OF THE WORD

Jesus is the “seed” spoken of in **Gen. 3:15** and promised to Abraham in **Gen.15:3**.

In **Matt.13:3-9** we read of the parable of the sower and the seed. God wants us to know and understand the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. He wants us to search His word and understand it, having ears to hear and eyes to see. **Matt.13:18-23** gives the interpretation of the parable. The word is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is sown as a **seed** into different types of soil, representing human hearts. What is happening to that word in our hearts? How do we respond to the **seed** of God’s word planted in our hearts?

We have been *“born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.”* **1Pet.1:23**

v.25 *“but the word of the Lord endures forever. Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.”*

Rom.10:8 *“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith which we preach.”*

MILK OF THE WORD

God wants us to feed on His word. Baby Christians need the milk of the word. We are to *“desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby”* [grow up to salvation] **1Pet.2:2**.

Heb.5:12-6:2 We are to know the elementary principles of the oracles of God listed in **Heb.6:1-2**. these are ‘elementary principles’ which means they are basic and vital in the life of every Christian.

Eph.4:13-15 is exhorting us to *“grow up in all things”* to *“the knowledge of the Son of God ... to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”*

2Pet.1:5-8 We are to be increasing in knowledge, that we will be *“neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

It is not God’s intention for us to remain as babies needing to be fed milk. We are to get into the meat of the word and go on to maturity. Therefore we prayer *“that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.”* **Eph.1:17**

THE MEAT OF THE WORD

Heb.5:14 *“But solid food belongs to those who are of full age [mature], that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*

In **Matt.4:4** we are told that, *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”* We receive life when we receive the word of God. **Jn.6:63** Jesus states *“The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life”*

The Word and the Spirit

Jn.4:34 Jesus acknowledges that it was **meat** for Him to do the Father's will. God's will is made know to us as our minds are renewed (**Rom.12:2**).

Jn.6:53-58 Jesus speaks of **eating the flesh and drinking the** blood of the Son of Man and thus having eternal life. This was a hard word and *"From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more."* (6:66). They said *"This is hard saying; who can understand it?"* v.50.

The meat of God's word is the word of righteousness, Heb.5:13. Many of God's people only receive the milk of the word. God's goal is for people to grow into maturity, to go onto perfection. Ask God for a hunger for His Word and devote yourself to be a diligent student of the Word. **2Tim.2:15** *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*

THE WORD:

is living and active

Heb.4:12 *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

is with power

Jn.1:12 *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right [power] to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."*

1Cor.2:4 *"And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power."*

1Cor.4:20 *"For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power."*

washes

Eph.5:26 Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her, *"that He might sanctify her and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word."*

cleanses

Jn.15:3 *"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."*

purifies

Ps.12:6 *"The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."*

grows mightily and prevails Acts19:20

Because the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed, *"All who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks."* Acts 19:10

will last forever

Mk. 13:31 *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."*

reveals the Lord

1 Sam.3:21 *"Then the Lord appeared again in Shiloh. For the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord."*

The Word and the Spirit

causes faith to grow

Rom.10:17 *"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

reveals God's will

Matt.28:20 *"Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you."*

Jn.7:16-17 *"If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on my own authority."*

Jn.15:7 *"If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."*

ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED

The Bible does not merely contain the word of God; it is the word of God.

2 Tim.3:16 *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."* It is God breathed; it was written for a purpose.

Rom.15:4 *"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we, through the patience and comfort of the Scripture might have hope."*

It is a sure word of prophecy which *"never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."* **2 Pet.1:20-21**

It reveals Jesus Christ. **Lu. 24:27**

TAUGHT IN THE WORD.

The Holy Spirit is our teacher:

Isa.30:20-21 [Amplified Version] *"And though the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide Himself anymore, but your eyes will constantly behold your Teacher and your ears shall hear a word behind you saying, 'This is the way, walk in it.'"*

Jn.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 things that I said to you."*

Jn.16:13 *"When He the spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak."*

Teaching is a gift:

Rom.12:6-7 teaching, a gift according to the grace of God.

1 Cor.12:28 It is God who has appointed **teachers** in the church.

Eph.4:7-11 The teacher is one of the ascension gift ministries.

James 3:1 Gives a special warning for teachers.

Every believer is to be raised up to teach the word:

Heb.5:12 - 6:2 All believers are to be taught so that they can teach others the foundations of

the faith.

1 Pet.4:11 We are to speak the words God gives us to speak, *"as the oracles of God."*

Elders must be able to teach:

The Word and the Spirit

Titus 1:9 *“Holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and to convict those who contradict.”*

1 Tim.3:2 Elders must be able to teach the word.

Grow Up In All Aspects Into Him:

Eph. 4:11-16 The goal of teaching is to bring the church to maturity.

The Anointing, which is given by God, teaches:

1 John 2:20 *“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.”*

:27 *“But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.”*

The anointing of the Holy Spirit in our lives teaches us

Ask for the Holy Spirit: He will convict, teach and reveal all things to you

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jn. 7:37-39 *“On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart [literally – out of his belly] will flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”*

In this Scripture Jesus confirms and develops Old Testament references to water and rivers [and rain] as indicative of the ministry of the Holy Spirit through the lives of people.

THE FATHER’S PROMISE

In **Acts 1:4** Jesus said to wait for *“the promise of the Father”*: the Father had promised the Holy Spirit.

Lu. 24:49 *“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”*

Jn. 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 things that I said to you.”*

The Holy Spirit is the promise of the Father.

Some Scriptures from the Old Testament that contain the promise of the Spirit:

Joel 2:28 God says *“in the last days, I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind [flesh]..”*

In **Acts 2:17-21** Peter quotes from Joel. What does Peter say in **Acts 2:16**? *“But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel.”*

Ezek.36:26-27 *“Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.”*

Jer.31:31-34 refers to the New Covenant. God will write His laws on our hearts and in our minds. God does this by sending the Holy Spirit to dwell in us once we have received Jesus. These verses are quoted in **Heb. 8:8-12, 10:16**.

Zech.4:6 *“not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit.”* What do ‘might’ and ‘power’ refer to? ‘Might’ refers to human strength, especially an armed force; ‘power’ refers to human ability.

Isa.43:19b a promise of *“rivers in the desert.”* Compare this with **Jn.7:38**.

Isa.12:3 *“therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation”,* speaking of living water.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE WORLD

The Holy Spirit was active in creation, **Gen.1:2** *“The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”*

The Holy spirit worked in the world throughout the times prior to Jesus’ coming; but it appears He was not revealed fully nor was He able to bring God’s purposes to

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fulfilment until the Son of God had come to enact redemption for this world. He had not previously come in the fullness of the way God intended because it was not time. From **Jn.7:39** we know **He could not come until Jesus was glorified.**

When we look at some examples in the Old Testament we see the action of God the Holy Spirit prior to Jesus coming:

Jud.14:6, speaking of Samson, *“and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart,”* and **v.19** *“then the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily, and he ... killed thirty men.”*

Jud.6:34 *“But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon: then he blew the trumpet.”*

The Holy Spirit *“came upon”* these men and empowered them to do mighty acts, giving them strength and boldness that they did not naturally have.

When Jesus came He said there would be *“rivers of living water flowing out of your innermost being,”* **Jn.7:38**.

The Holy Spirit would ‘come within’ every believer, giving us strength and boldness that we do not naturally have. Notice the change: in Old Testament times the Holy Spirit ‘came upon’ certain chosen ones to enable them to do God’s work; in New Testament times the Holy Spirit dwells within every believer, enabling everyone who believes to be a prophet, priest and king!

JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

John recognised Jesus through the coming and manifestation of the Holy Spirit, **Jn.1:32-34**. The Father had told John what to look for, **v.33** *“upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptises with the Holy Spirit.”*

Jn.3:34 Jesus received the Spirit *“without measure”*.

Heb.1:9b *“Therefore God, Your God has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”* The writer is quoting from **Ps.45:7**. Psalm 45 is a Messianic psalm speaking of Christ and His church.

Jesus set the example for us to follow: baptism in water and being filled with the Spirit **Matt.3:13-17**. His ‘baptism’ was the beginning [or launching] of His powerful public ministry:

Lu.4:1 Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil;

Lu.4:14 Jesus came out of the wilderness in the power of the Holy Spirit;

Lu.4:18 Jesus announces and clarifies His mission – *“the Spirit of the Lord is now upon Me because He has anointed Me ...”*

**Jesus did not begin His public ministry until He was
filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit.**

JESUS SPOKE OF THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT & HIS MINISTRY

Jn.14:16 *“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper [Comforter] that He may abide with you forever.”*

The Greek word for ‘Helper’ is *‘parakletos’* SC.#3875: The word signifies an intercessor, comforter, helper, advocate, counsellor. In non-biblical literature *‘parakletos’* had the technical meaning of an attorney who appears in court on another’s behalf. The Holy Spirit leads believers to a greater apprehension of gospel truths. In addition to general help and

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guidance, He gives the strength to endure the hostility of the world system.
(Word Wealth, Spirit Filled Life Bible, p.1605)

Jn.14:17 He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, *“but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”*

Jn.14:26 He is sent by the Father and is our Helper, Teacher and the One who will *“bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*

Jn.15:26 He is the Spirit that comes from the Father and bears witness to Jesus.

Jn.16:7 He was not able to come until Jesus returned to heaven, *“It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”*

Jn.16:8-11 He is the Spirit who will convict the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment.

Jn.16:13 He is the Spirit who *“will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”*

Jn.16:14 The Holy Spirit will always glorify Jesus, *“He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.”*

Jn.16:15 *“All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.”*

The Holy Spirit has come from the Father and the Son to make God known to us and to speak His word into us.

THE NEW COVENANT

God had a plan to restore humankind to Himself; it is through rebirth by the Holy Spirit (**Jn.3:5-6**), bringing us into fellowship and communion with God Himself. God promised through the prophets that He would make a new covenant with all people. The new covenant is **‘in the Spirit’**. *“God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”* **Jn.4:24**. Through the New Covenant God would be revealed to His people in a way that the Old Testament saints only saw in vision and prophecy.

Humankind was fallen in the flesh, at enmity with God

The Spirit is the answer for humankind’s problem.

Gal.5:16 *“Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lusts of the flesh.”*

v.17 *“The flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another.”*

v.18 *“If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”*

v.19-21 lists the works of the flesh.

v.21b *“Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”*

We need the Holy Spirit within us to teach us God’s word and speak into our hearts and minds. Without Him it is impossible to overcome the world.

The New Covenant is in the Spirit

God promised the Spirit to His people (**Ezek.36:26-27**) and promised a better Covenant, a New Covenant whereby the Spirit would come and indwell God’s people. It required the death of the Saviour to redeem humankind, His blood cleansing us from sin, so that we could receive the Spirit of God. When we respond to the gospel we will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **Acts 2:38** *“Repent, be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you will receive the gift of the*

The Word and the Spirit

Holy Spirit. *That is the promise!* And the promise is for *“you and your children and all who are afar off.”*

We cannot receive the Spirit of God into our lives unless we have repented of our sin and have received forgiveness through Christ’s death on the cross. In **Acts 19:1-6**, the disciples, whom Paul found in Ephesus, had not yet heard the gospel – they had only received the teaching of John the Baptist. They had to believe in Jesus and be baptised in His name before they received the Spirit. Note they had to be re-baptised because Christian baptism is only effectual because of the cross – the shedding of blood – and John’s baptism was not equivalent to Christian baptism.

THE HOLY SPIRIT – THE PERSON

Jesus clearly spoke of the Spirit as a Person, a Teacher, a Guide, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth in **Jn. Chap.14-16**.

Our relationship with Him

The Holy Spirit can be **grieved**. Grieving is a deep emotional response. Paul clearly personalises the Holy Spirit in **Eph.4:30** *“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”*

The Holy Spirit is given to us as **the seal of our redemption (Eph.1:13)** signifying God’s ownership of us – we were bought with a price (**1Cor.6:19**).

The Holy Spirit cares for us and **sanctifies** us (**Rom.15:16**).

We can have **fellowship** with the Holy Spirit (**2 Cor.13-14**): we can share, talk to and receive from the Holy Spirit and enjoy His presence in our lives.

The Holy Spirit can be **quenched**. If we cut off what the Spirit is offering us individually or corporately, we *“quench Him”* **1Thess.5:19**. It is important that we grow in sensitivity to the direction and promptings of the Holy Spirit, valuing the gift of the anointing in our lives and learning to flow with the Spirit in our meetings.

We are equipped and **enabled** by the Holy Spirit to be servants of the New Covenant.
2 Cor.3:3-6 **You are an epistle of Christ; written by the Spirit of the Living God;**
Not on tablets of stone but on the heart;
Our sufficiency is from God: He has made us ministers of the
New Covenant by the Spirit. The Spirit gives life.

We can only **pray** effectively by [in] the Spirit; *“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.”* **Eph.6:18**

It is by the Spirit that we **worship**, *“being transformed into the same image from glory to glory just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”* **2 Cor.3:18**

God desires us to have His Spirit in our lives, to **live and walk** by the Spirit (**Gal.5:25**). Without Him we cannot experience and live the Christian life. With Him we can enjoy **His fruit** in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (**Gal.5:22-23**)

The Unpardonable Sin

The Word and the Spirit

“Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men [that is blasphemy and sin against the Father and the Son] but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven Him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come” Matt.12:31-32

Jesus spoke these words in the context of the Pharisees saying that He worked miracles and cast out demons ***“by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons,” Matt.12:24.*** There needs to be discernment between the power of satan and the power of the Spirit of God. Back in the beginning, man was forbidden by God to ***“eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” Gen.2:7.*** Man turned away from the tree of life being deceived by Satan. To this day there has been confusion about the supernatural realm and often so-called Christians have spoken against the demonstration of the gifts of the Spirit saying it is Satan’s power.

Many false signs and wonders can be worked through the power of Satan (**Rev.13:13**). We need to know ***“which spirit we are of”*** and that is done by receiving the Holy Spirit, living in Him and walking by His grace and power.

God longs for us to receive and be led by His Spirit

Come Holy Spirit

You are welcome in my life

I need you!

I can do nothing without you

Even as we receive Jesus as the Son of God

into our lives by faith, that is by believing His word,

so we receive God the Holy Spirit into our lives by faith

according to His word.

THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES

HOW TO BE FILLED

Before Jesus ascended into heaven He gave a promise to His disciples, **Lu.24:49** *“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”*

In **Acts 1:4** Jesus said to wait for what the Father had promised. In **Acts 1:5** He said *“you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”* And again in **Acts 1:8** *“you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.”*

**Jesus told His disciples to expect to receive the Holy Spirit;
they were to be empowered.**

The Father’s promise is the Holy Spirit.

In **Acts 2** we see the first fulfilment of the promise.

HOW DID THE HOLY SPIRIT COME?

The Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost.

He came with power, supernatural signs and gifts.

Acts 2:2-8 A sound as of a mighty rushing wind, tongues of fire, they were *“filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other tongues ...”*.

The initial manifestation of the Spirit in the believers was ‘speaking in tongues [languages]’.

Acts 2:6 *“... everyone heard them speak in his own language ...”*

Acts 2:11 *“speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.”*

The disciples were speaking in the languages of men. There were sixteen different national groups present on that day, and they all heard the gospel being preached in their own language. As a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter was able to preach boldly concerning Jesus. Peter presented a powerful profile of Jesus the man *“attested by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs”*, crucified and risen; he then spoke of the ascended Lord who is sitting in judgement. He proclaimed *“therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” v.36*

Acts 2:37 The listeners were convicted by the Spirit-empowered word. Those who received the word were baptised (**v.41**). *“Then fear came upon every soul and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.” v.43*

A result of the Holy Spirit coming: **signs and wonders.**

WHEN WERE THE DISCIPLES BORN AGAIN?

Jesus tells us in **Jn.3:3-6** that we must be born again of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit could not come to indwell a person until Jesus had suffered and died on the cross to take away sin. Therefore we ask the question: when were the disciples born again? We know that they received the Holy Spirit with power on the day of Pentecost. However after the resurrection in **Jn.20:22** Jesus came up to His disciples *“He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’”*. Because Jesus had been to the cross and the disciples believed in Him in His resurrection, they were now able to receive the Spirit into their innermost being.

The Word and the Spirit

Have you been born again of the Spirit? This is the first step: receiving Christ by the Spirit into your innermost being. Then you are able to be filled/empowered by the Spirit. Being born again and being filled with the Spirit are two separate and distinct foundational experiences in coming to Christ, although they can merge into one and be part of one's initial experience.

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT LIKE?

He is a Person; Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as 'He' (**Jn.14:16**).

He is like Jesus (**Jn.14:16**); He is the Spirit of Christ (**Rom.8:9**); He is a comforter (**Jn.14:16**)

He will be talking about Jesus a lot, *"He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."* **Jn.14:26**. *"He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare It to you."* **Jn.16:14**

He was manifest as a dove at Jesus' baptism (**Matt.3:16**)

He manifested in tongues of fire and the sound as of a mighty wind (**Acts 2:2-3**)

His presence comes in the form of a supernatural cloud (**Matt.17:5, Ex.40:34-38**)

He is full of power and imparts it to us (**Acts 1:8**)

He has many supernatural abilities and releases gifts in the believers (**1 Cor.12:4-11**)

He is *"love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control"*: all fully expressed in one person, the person of the Godhead. (**Gal.5:22-23**)

He can be grieved (**Eph.4:30**); His presence and anointing can be quenched (**1 Thess.5:19**).

JESUS THE BAPTISER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

John clearly stated that Jesus would baptise with the Holy Spirit.

Matt.3:11 *"He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire."*

Mk.1:8 *"I indeed baptised you with water, but He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."*

Lu.3:16 *"He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire."*

Jesus also said He would be the one who would send the Holy Spirit. **Lu.24:49** *"Behold I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high."*

It was the Father who spoke to John and told him that Jesus would be the one who would baptise in the Holy Spirit. **Jn.1:33** *"I did not know Him; but He who sent me to baptise with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptises with the Holy Spirit'."*

The four evangelists [Matthew, Mark, Luke and John] all clearly witness to the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Every word is to be established through the mouth of two or more witnesses. All four gospels affirm some doctrines and teachings of Jesus; this is one of them. Therefore it is of particular importance!

BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ACTS – a study:

How did it happen on the Day of Pentecost?

Acts 2:1-4 They were all in one accord in one place.

v.2 Suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind.

v.3 Tongues of fire appeared and settled on each one of them.

v.4 They were all filled with the Spirit and began to speak in other tongues.

The Word and the Spirit

Acts 2:6-8 People heard the disciples speaking in their own languages.

Acts 2:17-21 Prophecy fulfilled: Peter recognised this as a fulfilment of the prophecy in **Joel 2:28-32**. As a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter was able to preach boldly about Jesus.

Acts 2:38 tells us what was to happen so that the believers could receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ***“Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”***

Being filled with the Spirit is an ongoing experience

Acts 4:8 ***“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit ...”***

Acts 4:31 ***“...and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”***

Effective ministry comes out of being filled with the Holy Spirit

Acts 6:3 The first deacons were to be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.

After being saved we still need to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

Acts 8:12 Many responded to the gospel being preached in Samaria, they were saved by believing the preaching of Philip and being baptised.

Acts 8:14-16 but they still need to be filled, to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit;

Acts 8:17-18 the gift was bestowed through the laying on of hands.

Acts 9:17-18 Saul was healed, filled with the Holy Spirit and then water baptised.

Acts 10:44-48 This is the record of the first Gentiles receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit; they believed the word Peter preached; the Holy Spirit fell on them [as it had on Jewish believers on the Day of Pentecost], then they were baptised in water.

Acts 19:1-7 records the Ephesian experience, faith in Jesus, water baptism [a re-baptism], filled with the Holy Spirit and gifts were released [through the laying on of hands].

SPEAKING WITH NEW TONGUES

They spoke with other tongues when they received the gift of the Holy Spirit;

Acts 2:4 ***“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”***

Acts 9:17 ***“Brother Saul ... be filled with the Holy Spirit”***; Paul declared in **1Cor.14:18** ***“I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all.”***

Acts 10:44-46 Speaking or praying in tongues, or in an unknown language, is a common manifestation of being filled with the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures. At Cornelius’s house, Peter and the circumcised believers recognised that the Holy Spirit had come when the Gentiles began to speak with tongues and exalt God.

Acts 19:6 ***“And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”***

The Fulfilment of His Promise

The Word and the Spirit

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to His followers when He returned to heaven. He said the Father had promised (**Acts 1:4**) the Holy Spirit also. He told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem *“until you are clothed with power from on high”* (**Lu. 24:49**).

The disciples [120] were filled with [received] power, were baptised with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The sign to the gathered crowds that something new was happening, was that they were speaking in tongues as well as some other strange behaviour that appeared to be like drunkenness; they had received the Holy Spirit in the New Covenant way, a totally new thing which God was now doing as a result of Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension, (**Acts 2:4**).

Baptism in the Holy Spirit with speaking in other tongues

In the case of the disciples on the day of Pentecost, the tongues were human languages, or at least some of them were (**Acts 2:6**). The speaking in tongues that is referred to in **Acts** is a manifestation of the **‘gift of tongues’** referred to in **1 Cor. 12:10**. However, when tongues are given by the Holy Spirit as a sign of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, they do not need to be interpreted necessarily. A **biblical sign**, or **supernatural manifestation of God** in the baptism with the Holy Spirit is **speaking in tongues**. The speaking in tongues is a gift [a supernatural one] **available to every believer**. It is a powerful gift that each believer needs for personal prayer and edification (**1 Cor. 14:2&4**), that is, the growth and strengthening of one's spiritual life.

We receive the Holy Spirit by faith from Jesus and we yield our whole soul and body to Him. He confirms His presence and power by releasing the power of God, the gift of God, that enables the believer **to speak a supernatural utterance, be it tongues or prophecy**. That gift remains with us, and we exercise the gift to release the power of the Holy Spirit. Hence, Paul prays in tongues more than all of you (**1 Cor. 14:18**).

Speaking in tongues is a *‘chrisma’* [gift] that the Holy Spirit imparts. The gift of tongues that is the sign [or the gift] of the Spirit at Holy Spirit baptism time is part of that baptism for many believers. It is available for every believer, part of God's equipping, a foundational experience and provision that God gives to enable us to be presented *“blameless and with great joy”* before His glorious Presence (**Jude 24**).

Jude 20 *“but you beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit ...”* When we pray in tongues, our spirit is praying to God in communication He alone understands (**1 Cor. 14:2&14**). This is one basic way that we can *‘pray in the Spirit’*. In **v. 18** Paul thanks God he speaks in tongues privately, for that is the purpose of the gift.

When there is a message in tongues for the church [a public tongue], there should be an interpretation (**1 Cor. 14:27-28**).

HOW DO I RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

According to the Scripture:

1. **By asking.** **Lu. 11:13** *“It you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”* The heavenly Father promises to give us the Holy Spirit.
2. **By keeping Jesus commandments.** **Jn. 14:15-16** *“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth.”*

The Word and the Spirit

3. By realising the Spirit already abides with you and is in you through your faith in Jesus. Jn.14:17b *"But you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."*
4. By repenting, being baptised in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, Acts 2:38
5. Through the laying on of hands once you have believed in Jesus and been baptised. Acts 8:16-17 *"They had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."* [also Acts 19:5-6]
6. Through simply believing the preached word concerning Jesus, He the Spirit will fall on you. Acts 10:44-45.

HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM [infilling] OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Desire to be filled totally with God's Spirit

Ps.42:1-2 *"As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God."*

Matt.5:6 *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."*

2. Believe that you will receive the Spirit

Mk.11:24 *"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you prayer, believe that you receive, and you will have."*

3. Come to a place of prayer

Kneeling, sitting, standing or however is best for you. If the person is standing it is wise to have someone behind them in case they fall under the Spirit's power. However if the person falls under the power of the Spirit, do not assume they have been filled. Look for the Scriptural evidence of tongues or prophecy or the exaltation of God.

4. Worship the Lord and thank Him

Avoid possible disturbances and try to forget what is happening around you. (Ps.100:4)

5. Ask God for the Spirit and thank Him in advance

Lu.11:13 *"If you then being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him."*

6. Thank Him and praise Him aloud.

It is your voice that speaks, even when you speak in tongues; focusing on Jesus is the key as He is the giver of every gift, the baptiser in the Holy Spirit. **Heb.13:15**

7. Expect something to happen

Expect new words to come to your lips, a real sense of His presence; expect to receive the Spirit with speaking in tongues or to prophesy or to see a vision. The Holy Spirit will not force you to speak; He will only prompt you; obey His leading – it may seem strange to you but act in faith, keeping your eyes on and trusting the Lord.

Jn.2:5 *"Whatever He says to you, do it."*

Acts 5:32 *"So also the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."*

8. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus

He is the baptiser in the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit will not violate your personality; He will not go against your will; He will only fill you in response to your total obedience and trust in Him (**Matt.14:28-29**).

Now is the time to trust God to fill you with His Spirit and your mouth with His praise; to dare to speak not knowing what heavenly speech will come from your lips; to step forward into the divine realm, by speaking, by trusting, by stepping into God's Spirit which is always new territory.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

As members of His body, a variety of gifts are available to all and each one of us: specifically, the gifts in **1 Cor.12:8-10**.

1 Cor.12:4-6 *“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.”*

As we pray and worship together the Holy Spirit may wish for us to use one or more of His gifts to edify, build up and encourage the members of His body gathered.

Gifts of the Spirit: some word meanings,

Greek *‘pneumatikos’*, *“a spiritual”*, that which pertains to or proceeds from the Holy Spirit;

translated: - gifts, manifestations, impartations, emanations, endowments, things,

effects, aids, workings, graces or favours of the Holy Spirit.

‘Charisma’, *a gift freely given*, of extraordinary power and blessing; a divine enablement or benefit.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1 Cor.12:1 *“concerning the gifts of the Spirit, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant.”*

1 Cor.12:4-6 *“moreover there are different charismatic gifts, but the same spirit who gives them. There are different ways of administering these gifts, but the same Lord who is served. And there are different things accomplished by this divine energy, but it is the same God who produces all these things through all of us.”*
[alternate translation].

AN EXPLANATION OF THE GIFTS, 1 CORINTHIANS 12

WORD OF WISDOM

v.8 *“for to one is given, by the Spirit, a word of wisdom”*

Greek (Gr. *‘sophia’* – complete or superior knowledge; skill in making the right use of

knowledge.

Pro.3:13 *“Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding.”*

Pro.8:11 *“For wisdom is better than riches, and all the things one may desire cannot be*

compared with her.”

James 1:5 *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and*

without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

James 3:17 *“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing*

to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”

The Word and the Spirit

This is wisdom from God, not human wisdom; moving in Christ, in His wisdom, knowing what God would do in a particular situation, and what He would have us do. It is particularly relevant in counselling, but in any situation, we can ask God for a word, the wisdom for the situation, the need, the direction of the meeting.

For example: Jesus' answer in **Jn.8:7** is an awesome word of wisdom that resolved a difficult situation.

Acts 4:19-20 Peter and John's answer here is another example of a word of wisdom in a very difficult situation.

An example of a word of wisdom being given by the Spirit that resolved an uncertainty for us: we were planning to go to Kenya on a short-term ministry trip, in 2000. However we were also invited to go to Myanmar where we had been a number of times. The Myanmar trip was cheaper; we knew the situation there with many reliable contacts in the church. Africa was daunting, being uncertain, new, expensive travel costs and Kenya was said to be dangerous! A group of us asked the Lord in a prayer session for a word of wisdom to resolve our uncertainty. The Spirit quickened the story in **Acts 16** where Paul came to Troas. When we looked up the Scripture reference, **v.6b** says, *"they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia."* We were totally convinced that God wanted us to go to Kenya at this time. We had a divine-given confidence from that time.

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

v.8 *"to another a word of knowledge, by the same Spirit"*

Gr. *'gnosis'* – what is known or understood; by a word of knowledge, God shares with us a portion of His perfect knowledge; to know as Jesus would have known in similar circumstances.

Jesus had a word of knowledge about the woman at the well, **Jn.4:16-19**.

The word of knowledge can come through a thought, impression, vision, or a voice that tells about a situation. It is the Holy Spirit speaking to us (**Jn.16:13**).

The word of knowledge often reveals specific healing needs. The Lord will reveal a healing need to the person ministering and if the person responds there is a confident expectation the Lord will heal. In other ministry situations including reaching the lost, the Lord will reveal something about that person. When you share what God has revealed, the person will be surprised and wonder, 'how did you know that?' This will open the person up to receive more of God's word.

GIFT OF FAITH

v.9 *"to another faith, by the same Spirit"*

Gr. *'pistis'* – active believing, confidence, trust, firm assurance in God's power, truth etc.

This is a charismatic gift. It is a supernatural trust above and beyond normal faith, to work God's work, *"the faith of God"*. This is a spiritual gift from the Holy Spirit; it is not the gift of saving faith (**Eph.2:8**). We need the spiritual gift of faith when God has given us a vision or a word to do something but we are not able to; we need extra faith; the gift of faith. **Mk.11:22** *"So Jesus answered and said to them, 'Have [the] faith in [of] God'."* It is having a supernatural certainty that the Spirit will Himself provide the necessary miracle.

Matt.8:8-9 the man under authority: did he have this gift?

In the prayer for the sick with the anointing of oil **James 5:15** says, *"the prayer of faith will save the sick"*. This is obviously not the faith to believe and be saved as it is believers who are being exhorted to come for healing. This is prayer that calls on the

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gift of faith, to enable the elders praying to believe for the supernatural healing of the person.

GIFTS OF HEALINGS

v.9 “to another, gifts of healings, by the same Spirit”

Gr. *‘iama’* – a cure, a specific remedy for a specific disease.

Referred to as ‘gifts of healings’ in the plural, showing that God has a variety of ways in which healing is ministered, all supernatural. This gift can be most prevalent and powerful in convincing people of Christ and His gospel. The sick are healed supernaturally through this gift.

Mk.16:18 indicates that with healing there can be a recovery time, *“they will recover”*. Don’t be discouraged if the healing does not happen immediately. If it happens instantly it is a miracle. When praying for the sick, pray in faith without doubting and expect the anointing of the Holy Spirit to manifest tangibly to you or the person being prayed for. For example you may feel heat in your hands or you may not, but the person being prayed for feels the heat. This is a common way that the Holy Spirit manifests; there are many other ways. Once you become aware that there has been a manifestation of the Spirit’s power, you can share confidently in faith that the person has been healed. Often there will be immediate relief from pain or some manifestation of healing to encourage the person.

When Jesus first sent the twelve apostles out to minister in **Matt.10:1**, He gave them power to heal all kinds of sicknesses and all kinds of disease; He gave them the gifts of healings by the Spirit.

WORKING OF MIRACLES

v.10 “to another the working of miracles” (works of power)

Gr. *‘energema’* – an effect, a bringing forth, a causing to happen, a demonstration or experience of divine energy;

Gr. *‘dunamis’* – a mighty work, miraculous power, extraordinary force; a display of supernatural power or energy.

The working of miracles supercedes the ordinary laws of nature, or normal course of events, bringing about something by other than natural means.

There are numerous examples of Jesus’ miracles. See **Jn.2:1-11** for one example.

Stephen had this gift, **Acts 6:8** *“and Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.”*

1 Cor.12:28 tells us that God has set this gift in the church. This along with all the spiritual gifts can be given to a person so that they become a miracle worker.

GIFT OF PROPHECY

v.10 “to another prophecy”

Gr. *‘propheteia’* – a speaking forth, by divine inspiration or revelation; may include prediction, but not normally; a breaking forth under sudden impulse in inspired speech that speaks of the things of God.

Prophecy is in the known language and is similar to the interpretation of tongues. It comes through an impression, thought, vision, the Spirit’s voice, with an accompanying sense or knowing that this is of God and not myself.

This gift enables a person to speak for God. Often the person exercising this gift has consciously received only a portion of what the Spirit intends to bring forth. The person needs to speak out what they have received and the gift will flow. The gift of

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prophecy is to bring edification, exhortation and comfort. **1 Cor.14:3** *“But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.”*

DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS

v.10 *“to another discerning of spirits”*

Gr. *‘diakrisis’* – making a distinction, judging, the act of detecting, seeing, identifying,
understanding.

This gift of discernment is spiritual insight, seeing into the spirit world; seeing what is taking place; this is discerning the realm of the spirit as Jesus would have discerned it; it is distinguishing between the person who is inspired of God and the one who pretends to be.

See example in **Acts 16:16-18** Paul discerned the spirit of divination in the slave girl. She appeared to be speaking the truth but it was by the wrong spirit.

There are three realms [sources] of spirit

1. **God the Holy Spirit and heavenly beings:** cherubim, seraphim, living creatures, angels and glorified saints.
2. **Satan, fallen angels and demons**
3. **Human spirits** – every human being has a spirit.

The discerning of spirits is recognising which spirit is present. Is the person acting under the power of the Holy Spirit; is the person demonised; is the person simply acting in the flesh? This gift enables the ministry of deliverance from evil spirits to be exercised powerfully.

GIFT OF TONGUES

v.10 *“to another different kinds of tongues”*

Gr. *‘genos’* – a sum of many kinds, in other words many different kinds.

Gr. *‘glossa’* – the tongue, any language; a language the speaker has not previously known,

which is spoken as led by the Spirit.

Speaking in tongues in an initial evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit and there is Scriptural evidence to suggest that this gift received at one’s baptism in the Holy Spirit is not specifically one of the gifts of the Spirit taught in **1 Cor.12**. The gift of tongues received at one’s baptism in the Holy Spirit is for prayer to God privately for personal edification and does not need to be interpreted when used in private prayer (**1 Cor.14:2,4**).

The gift of different kinds of tongues is a gift given by the Spirit to bring a message to a meeting of God’s people. The message in an unknown tongue needs to be interpreted. When the Holy Spirit gives a person a message for the meeting in an unknown tongue, it seems He does this to get everyone’s attention, because the interpretation often flows in a similar way to the gift of prophecy.

A second use of the gift of tongues that still manifests today, is the enabling of a person to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in a human language they have not known, to a person who knows that language.

GIFT OF INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

v.10 *“to another interpretation of tongues”*

Gr. *‘hermeneia’* – a translation or explanation.

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The interpretation of tongues gives the meaning or an understanding of what is spoken in tongues, generally not a direct translation as the tongue is generally not a human language. It can come as a thought or a vision and may come through one or more people which when spoken out and shared can be responded to. In a prayer meeting a message brought in tongues gets the attention of the meeting; the group then waits on God to release the gift of interpretation; this will then give direction and guidance to the meeting.

The gift of speaking in tongues and the interpretation of the tongues is a very powerful gift when manifest in the meeting of the church. Unfortunately because of the confusion in the understanding of many concerning 'speaking in tongues', most Christians have never been in a meeting where these two gifts have manifested.

MINISTERING THE GIFTS

The people of God need to be encouraged that receiving and ministering the gifts of the Holy Spirit is simple and easy. A good exercise is to gather people in a small group after giving instruction on the gifts and asking them to pray for each person in turn. The whole group waits on the Spirit for the gifts. Recently in such a group two girls aged 9 and 10 received gifts and were able to minister; one was prophesying and the other received specific visions. It is not so much our 'using' the gifts, but our being totally yielded so the Holy Spirit can use us.

The Nine Gifts Of 1 Corinthians 12 Can Be Put Into Three Groupings:

1) GIFTS OF COMMUNICATION: Prophecy, Tongues, Interpretation of tongues
Saying things supernaturally, that is **utterance from the Holy Spirit**
Enablement in expression and communication
Miracles by word; Inspiration; Words

2) GIFTS OF REVELATION: Wisdom, Knowledge, Discernment
Knowing things supernaturally; **intelligence of the Holy Spirit**
Enablement in understanding and insight
Miracles by thought; Information; Facts

3) GIFTS OF DEMONSTRATION: Miracles, Healings, Faith
Doing things supernaturally; **deliverance by the Holy Spirit**
Enablement in power and energy
Miracles by deed; Action; Acts

IN LOVE

The place of love in the use of God's gifts (**1 Cor.13**) comes in the midst of Paul's teaching on the charismatic gifts, **"without love, I am nothing"** (v.2). Love is to be our motivating desire and goal in ministering the gifts. Without the power of the Holy Spirit, this love, that is God's love in us and through us, will be frustrated. We need

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His gifts to effectively minister His love. Without love, we risk condemnation (**Matt.7:19-23**).

To administer a gift is to serve someone or the whole group; there are a variety of ways in which the gifts can be ministered. The giver receives the praise not the minister (servant).

GOD'S POWER

By means of these gifts, the Holy Spirit makes us partakers of the divine power and energy; as Christ makes us partakers of the divine nature by His word (**2Pet.1:4**). God the Father achieves His purposes by the outflow of divine energy; we are serving the Lord Jesus Christ as we co-operate and minister the gifts given by the Holy Spirit; the Triune God is fully involved.

GOING ON TO MATURITY

The Role of Spiritual Gifts in Bringing the Church to Maturity

Heb.6:1 *“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection.....”* This perfection is the maturity, wholeness, completeness that the church is to attain in Christ Jesus.

Paul describes Christ as the husband and the church as the bride whom He is preparing to be *“glorious and without blemish”* (Eph.5:22-27).

Eph.5:25 *“Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her;
v.26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,
v.27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”*

The word “church” (Greek: ‘ecclesia’) means “the called out people of God” and it is Christ *“who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.”* (Jude 24)

HOW DOES THE CHURCH ATTAIN THIS MATURITY?

The letter to the Ephesians teaches: of maturity;

- i. of Christ and His church;
- ii. of Christ in the heavenlies fulfilling God’s purpose and expressing His purpose in the earth through the church.
- iii. of the ascension gift ministries building up the Body of Christ, until we all come to maturity [perfection].

Eph.4:1 It teaches how we are to *“walk worthy of the calling with which you were called.”*

Eph.4:8 To enable the church to function as a mature, complete body, the risen Jesus *“gave gifts to men.”*

These particular gifts, listed in v.11, are referred to as the ascension gifts. It is Jesus the Messiah risen and seated *“at His (God’s) right hand in the heavenly places”* (Eph.1:20) who gives these gifts.

Eph.4:11 *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.”*

Why Did Christ Give These Gifts?

Eph.4:12 *“for the equipping of the saints
for the work of ministry,
for the edifying of the body of Christ.”*

What Is The Goal?

Eph.4:13 *“till we all come to the unity of the faith
and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
to a perfect man,
to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ”* (cf. Eph.1:22-23).

Eph.4:14 *“that we should no longer be children”* but be growing up rooted in faith and grounded in the Word.

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What Is The Process Whereby This Will Be Achieved?

Eph.4:15 *“but speaking the truth in love,*

may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ”-

Eph.4:16 *“from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”*

It is as the church receives and allows these five gifts to operate that it will grow into maturity.

What Does The Apostle Do?

An apostle is a special representative, commissioned by Christ to represent Him (**Matt.10:40**) in word with accompanying signs. Apostles are called by Christ and given a specific mandate to build the church, the house of God. The apostle is bold to confess Christ, and to go forth to fulfill the great commission, planting churches and raising up ministers to function in the churches. Paul says the apostle is a wise master builder (**1 Cor.3:10**).

The apostle is given an understanding of the mysteries that God wants all the saints to know. An apostle extends the work of the church pioneering new fields for the gospel. A church where the apostolic gift is operating is an outward looking church; a church that is involved in making disciples and raising up workers for the harvest; a church that is reaching nations.

What Is The Role Of The Prophet?

The prophet placed by Jesus in the church is God’s spokesman in a specific way. This person hears and brings divinely focused messages to the church. When this gift is operating, the church knows God’s will and how He wants to accomplish His will. The prophet is gifted at times with insight into future events. The prophetic voice in a prayer meeting is powerful to guide the meeting. This ministry gift is generally accompanied by the gift of prophecy.

God spoke to Amos: **Amos 3:7** *“Surely the Lord does nothing, unless He reveals His secrets to His servants the prophets.”* Jesus said the Spirit *“will tell you things to come.”* (**Jn. 16:13**)

The prophetic gift is necessary to guide the church. **1 Cor.14:1** *“desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”* Moses also recognised the need for this divine guidance.

Num.11:29 *“Oh, that all the Lord’s people were prophets and the Lord would put His Spirit upon them.”*

What Is The Role Of The Evangelist?

This special gift is given to some whereby unbelievers come into an experience of salvation through the preaching or witnessing of the evangelist. The evangelist reaches out of the church into the community. The new converts are then brought into the church to be nurtured by the pastor and the teacher. Philip’s ministry in Samaria, and the Ethiopian, and to many towns and cities in **Acts 8** is a powerful example of an evangelist.

What Is The Role Of The Pastor?

The Word and the Spirit

Primarily the pastor shepherds and cares for the people in the body of Christ. He fulfills the commission Jesus gave to Peter when He said ***“Tend My sheep”*** (**John 21:16**). He protects not only the people, but also the word of God. The apostle Paul addresses the elders [or pastors] of the church of Ephesus in **Acts 20** and in **v.28** tells them to shepherd the flock of God over whom God has given them oversight. The apostle Peter has similar instructions for elders in **1 Pet.5:1-4**.

What Does The Teacher Do?

The teacher in the church points out the truth. The special gift of teaching is given to bring revelation on the word. People sitting under anointed teaching find that ***“the eyes of their understanding are enlightened.”*** (**Eph.1:18**) The word brought by an anointed teacher heals, saves, delivers, and sets the oppressed free. Often a pastor will have the gift of teaching and certainly every pastor [elder in the New Testament] needs to be able to teach the word of God.

Life In The Early Church.

We see the leaders of the early church moving in these ascension gifts for the building up of the church.

1 Tim.4:14 The elders laid hands on Timothy, spoke prophetic words to him and imparted a gift to him.

2 Tim.1:6 Paul exhorts Timothy ***“to stir up the gift that is in you through the laying on of my hands.”***

Through the laying on of hands, men ***“full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom”*** were set apart for ministry (**Acts 6:6**).

Acts 13:3-4 After the laying on of hands, they were ***“sent out by the Holy Spirit.”***

As the early church ***“continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship”*** (**Acts 2:42**), ***“the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved”*** (**Acts 2:47**).

The “gift” ministries produce “every-member” ministries.

What does Paul tell us to desire?

1 Cor.14:1 ***“Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophecy.”***

Why are we especially encouraged to prophesy?

v.3 ***“He who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.”***

Why are we to be zealous for spiritual gifts?

v.12 ***“For the edification of the church.”***

What gifts should we expect to be present whenever we come together?

v.26 tongues and interpretation, teaching and revelation, psalmody.

Why are we to exercise them?

v.26 for edification and the building up of the body of Christ.

Col.3:16 ***“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”***

**As the members of the body of Christ, the church,
minister to one another, the Lord is glorified.**

The Word and the Spirit

The Ministry Of The New Covenant.

The church [the called out people of God] depends on the Spirit to release the gifts of God.

2 Cor. 3:5 tells us that *“our sufficiency is from God.”*

v.6 God has made us to be *“ministers of the new covenant”*

v.6 He has done this *“not of the letter but of the Spirit*

v.6 *“the Spirit gives life.”*

v.8 The ministry that the Spirit gives is *“a ministry with glory.”*

As we move with the ministry in the power of the Spirit *“we are being transformed from glory to glory” 2Cor.3:18.*

It is as we believe that we speak. **2 Cor.4:13** *“I believed, therefore I spoke.”*

Therefore *“knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men” 2Cor.5:11.*

Paul calls this ministry we have been given *a ministry of reconciliation to the world, 2Cor.5:18*

We are called to be *“ambassadors for Christ” 2Cor.5:20.*

Use The Spiritual Gifts

To be ministers of this new covenant to which we have been called, we are to use the spiritual gifts God has given us.

1Pet.4:10 *“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

1Pet.4:11 *“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen”.*

Rom.12:4-5 *“Even though we are all believers and followers of Christ Jesus, we are all different and have different roles in the one body.*

v.6 We have *“gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us ... let us use them ... in proportion to our faith.”*

The Gifts Of God Are Foundational To The Church

We are to desire them, to seek them, to receive them, and to use them *“for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Eph.4:12)* that His body might become *“the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” (Eph.1:23)*

In our day God is restoring the ascension gift ministries to the church, and even right now we are seeing the restoration of the apostolic ministry.

SEVEN GIFTS OF THE FATHER IN ROMANS 12

There are three separate lists of gifts in the New Testament and there is the composite list in **1Cor.12:28**. The three lists can be seen as representing the fullness of the Godhead.

1. **The nine gifts of the Holy Spirit 1Cor.12:8-10**. These gifts are given by the **Holy Spirit** to believers (**v.4**) and the manifestation of the Spirit through these gifts is for the profit of all.
2. **The five ministry [ascension] gifts Eph.4:11** are given by **Jesus Christ** to the church to bring the church to maturity.
3. **The seven creational [motivational] gifts of Rom.12:6-8** are given by the **Father** at creation to all His human creatures. While Paul speaks of these gifts as differing according to grace, this manifestation of the grace of God is *“poured out on the just and the unjust alike”*. In other words these gifts are received at birth and in every human community, people function in these various gifts, ministering to one another in their lives. Once a person is saved and functioning in the body of Christ, the creational gifts play a key role in causing the body to function properly.

I Cor.12:4-6 Illustrate the three gift areas as follows:

1. **v.4** *“there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit”*; this can refer to the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit in **1Cor.12:8-10**, which are distributed by the Holy Spirit to each member of the body **v.11**.
2. **v.5** *“there are differences of ministries, but the same Lord”*; this can refer to the five ascension gift ministries given to the church by Jesus in **Eph.4:11**.
3. **v.6** *“and there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all”*; this can refer to the gifts listed in **Rom.12:6-8** and they are given by God the Father.

THE FATHER’S GIFTS

Also called **creational gifts** as they are given at creation, these gifts are different in function and expression to the gifts of the Spirit in **1Cor.12** and both lists are different in function and expression to the ministry gifts of **Eph.4:11**. For example, prophecy is listed in **Rom.12** and **1Cor.12** and the ministry of the prophet is listed in **Eph.4**. Each of these expressions of prophetic gifting are very different, although it is possible for the same member of the body of Christ to have received all three gifts. The gift of teaching is in **Rom.12** and the ministry of the teacher is in **Eph.4**. These teaching gifts are very different in function and expression. The purpose of this study is to understand the Father’s gifts.

Rom.12:4 *“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function.”* Each member has a different function or as **1Cor.12:6** says *“there are diversities of activities [operations]”*. These gifts are areas of human function or activity or operation in community.

PROPHECY

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What does it mean to prophesy using this gift? In previous lessons we have examined the gift of prophecy by the Holy Spirit, and briefly looked at the ministry of the prophet. This creational gift is very different to both of them; it is a 'natural' gift of insight; someone who has very good judgment [discernment] of a particular situation, person or problem. In other words, this is someone who is able to speak wisdom and give good advice, not by the gift of the Spirit, nor out of the ministry as a prophet, but through this natural gift. Some people are naturally prophetic; they have insight because God gave them this gift.

Rom.12:6 *"Prophecy in proportion to your faith"*; if you believe you have been given this special insight, then share it with the relevant people.

MINISTRY or SERVICE

Some people find it easy to serve, to minister to the needs of others. People with this gift see something that needs to be done and they do it. This gift is personified in the ministry of the deacon in the Scripture, and may be similar to the gift of *"helps"* listed in **1 Cor.12:28**. Most of us need to be asked to serve but there are some who naturally serve.

Rom.12:7 *"Let us use it in our ministry [KJV let us wait on our ministry]"*; there is a gift that enables us to serve [minister to] others.

TEACHING

Someone who naturally likes to explain things to others, a desire to impart knowledge. Many people who choose teaching as a career, whether it be school-teaching or other areas of teaching in the work force, have this motivational gift in their lives from God, and they will make good teachers.

Rom.12:7 *"he who teaches, in teaching"*; again, if you have a gift [a motivational desire] of teaching, recognize it and use it to teach. It may mean teaching children or new Christians' class in the church.

EXHORTATION

To exhort is to encourage, building up another person. Who loves to be encouraged? Do you know someone who exercises this gift and is always encouraging others? We can all practice this gift by grace. Barnabas's name means *'son of encouragement'* (**Acts4:36**) and we see Barnabas exercising this gift in encouraging Saul [Paul] into the ministry.

Rom.12:8 *"he who exhorts, in exhortation"*; use the gift God gives to build others up – we all need plenty of encouragement.

GIVING

Some people are naturally generous; some people when you visit them always give a gift. Some members of the body can be relied upon to always be giving to others. It is not only in financial giving, as people without finance who have this gift will always find something to give.

Rom.12:8 *"he who gives, with liberality [KJV simplicity]"*; Jesus has promised us *"Give, and it shall be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."*

LEADERSHIP

The Word and the Spirit

Some people are natural leaders. In any group or work situation there needs to be a leader. Thank God for this gift so we do not have to go round in circles wishing someone would make a decision.

Rom.12:8 *“he who leads [KJV rules] with diligence”*; a leader is to be hardworking in his or her role.

MERCY

The gift of mercy is to show pity to the person in need; coming alongside a person to help them in their time of need, especially when they are judged as not deserving it.

Rom.12:8 *“He who shows mercy, with cheerfulness”*; not out of a sense of duty but with kindness and cheerfulness.

CONCLUSION

Every person has at least one of these gifts that motivate behaviour, often influencing the area of work or career that they embark upon. For example, people with a gift of mercy will often work in a caring profession such as nursing. Every family and every community of people and every fellowship of God’s people need all of these gifts released and functioning. In the body of Christ we are to help the saints identify areas of gifting according to **Rom.12:6-8** and encourage them in the exercise of these gifts. This will be fruitful in the growth and effectiveness of the body.

APPLICATION

In small groups of people who know each other, spend time identifying these gifts in each person. If we stop and think about each other, we will soon realise that each member of the body automatically functions in one or more of these gifts. Sometimes the person is very aware of their motivational [natural] gifting; other times a person needs help from others who are able to recognise the motivational gifting in their brother or sister.

The Word and the Spirit

Discipleship Courses **for Christian Ministers and Serious Disciples**

These courses have been prepared for brethren who are serious disciples of the word of God. There are three years of course work altogether.

The first year's modules, seminars and practical constitute the coursework for **Certificate I**.

The second year's modules, seminars and practical constitute **Certificate II**,

The third year's modules, seminars and practical constitute **Certificate III**.

Three Seminars

There needs to be three seminars arranged for each year's course:

one at the beginning of the course to introduce apostolic teaching to the disciples,

one in the middle of the course to consolidate the apostolic teaching in their understanding;

one at the end of the course to complete the teaching and graduate the successful students.

Seminars need to be presented by an apostle or apostolic teacher.

Curriculum - based on manuals and books

The **manuals and books** that are to be studied will be made available to the acting principal of the course and copies can be made for all participants if that is possible.

Certificates will be issued at the end of each year's course to those who successfully complete the course.

Each module is based on a manual [written by Paul Galligan or one of the team at Revival Ministries Australia] or a book. Each manual has between four and eleven sessions.

We recommend that the school meets at least **one full day per week** and that at least two sessions are presented each day. Please note that some of the sessions in some of the manuals have recommended workshops that the students are expected to participate in.

Each year's course is the equivalent of nine modules. Normally a module is one manual and the books in the course are equal to 2 modules each. Some of the sessions are longer and an individual session may take a full day. Some of the sessions are shorter and three or four may be covered in one day. Most of the sessions are average length and we suggest two sessions per day.

In the third year course there are two modules [M7 and M8] that are devoted to developing practical ministry skills – preaching set biblical topics & memorizing Scriptures in particular subject areas.

The course should be successfully completed in **nine months**, following the above schedule.

Practical Ministry: there are two areas of practical ministry required for the three years of the course:

- the regular celebration of the Lord's Supper
- disciplined reading of the Scripture – the whole Bible in one year.

For further information contact Revival Ministries Australia. There may be an apostolic leader in your area who is able to present the seminars and also have access to the Curriculum materials.

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