

THE HOLY SPIRIT



**CEDARS HOUSE CHRISTIAN (INTERNATIONAL)
LET THE TRUTH BE TOLD SERIES**



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THE MANDATORY CLAUSE

The Holy Spirit is the Mandatory Clause of the Great Commission. Jesus gave His disciples a clause in the mandate of the Great Commission, to wait for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, whom the Father would send to be with the Church and enable her to fulfil the Great Commission. The most critical need of the Church, therefore, is the Holy Spirit!

- *Read: Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5; Acts 1:8*

The role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Believer and the Church is unparalleled! Isaiah prophesied of the impact of the Holy Spirit on us.

- *Read Isaiah 61:1-4*

JESUS NEEDED THE HOLY SPIRIT

As a human being, Jesus Himself needed the Holy Spirit in order to fulfil His mission on earth.

1. Jesus needed the Holy because He lived on earth as a human being. As a man, Jesus needed the Holy Spirit in order to function in the realms of God and do the works of God.

Jesus had no power to do anything spectacular without the Holy Spirit. (*Read: Luke 3:21-22, Luke 4:1, 14*)

2. The Holy Spirit coming upon Jesus and infilling Him was Jesus' transitioning from His human identity as the son of the carpenter to His divine identity as the Son of God.

- *Read: Psalm 2:7-8; Luke 2:51; Matthew 13:55; Matthew 3:17; Luke 3:22; Romans 8:14-17)*

2. With this experience, Jesus set the pattern for our own transitioning, which is the pattern for fulfilling righteousness.

- Like Jesus, we are born-again (not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but) of God, the Spirit. (*John 1:12; John 3:5-6*)
- We, like Jesus, must be baptised in water to symbolise our death to the old identity (fallen human beings), and resurrection to our new identity in Christ (*Romans chapters 6 and 7*)
- We, like Jesus, must be baptised and filled with the Holy Spirit, to empower and enable us to fully function and operate in our new supernatural identity as sons of God.
- Jesus, as a human being, needed the fullness of the Holy Spirit to function in His divine identity as the Son of God, and do the works of God. We also, need the Holy Spirit to fulfil the same. This is the fulfilment of righteousness.
- *Read: Luke 4:1; Luke 4:16-21)*

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. The Holy Spirit was in existence long before the day of Pentecost

The Holy Spirit moved upon the face of the waters and was the active Agent in Creation.

- *Read: Genesis 1:1,2, 26-27; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Psalm 51:11; Isaiah 63:10, Daniel 4:8,9*

2. The Holy Spirit is part of the Holy Trinity with the Father and Son.

There are three very distinct Persons that make up the Godhead –

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. They are all equal, in that they are all GOD.

- *Read: Matt 28:19; Matt 3:16-17; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinth 12:4-6*

3. The Holy Spirit is a Person

Many think of the Holy Spirit as a thing, force, spirit or 'ghost.' The truth is that the Holy Spirit is a Person, just like the Father and Son. As a Person, the Holy Spirit would very much like a relationship with us.

a. The Holy Spirit has qualities that are only found in a person :

- The Holy Spirit has intellect – *1 Corinthians 2:10*
- The Holy Spirit has knowledge – *1 Corinthians 2:11*
- The Holy Spirit has emotions – *Ephesians 4:30*
- The Holy Spirit has His own will and He makes decisions – *Acts 16:6*
- The Holy Spirit loves – *Romans 15:30*

b. The Holy Spirit is also able to do certain things which a person can do:

- The Holy Spirit speaks – *1 Timothy 4:1-2*
- The Holy Spirit teaches you things about God and yourself – *John 14:26*
- ◀ The Holy Spirit tells the truth – *John 15:26*
- ▶ The Holy Spirit guides – *John 16:13*
- △ The Holy Spirit convinces and convicts – *John 16:8*
- ▽ The Holy Spirit prays for you – *Romans 8:26-27*
- « The Holy Spirit commands – *Acts 13:2*
- » The Holy Spirit gives birth – *John 3:5-8*

4. The Holy Spirit is the Breath (Life) of God

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit was referred to as the

“*ruwach*”, which literally means ‘*Wind*’, the wind associated with a ‘*breathe*’ (Ezekiel 37:8-10).

In the New Testament the Greek word ‘*pneuma*’ was used, which means the ‘*Breathe*’ or a ‘*Breeze*’. Hence we can literally think of the Holy Spirit as the “*Breathe of God!*”

- He is the resurrection power who gives life to all that is dead or dying. - *Romans 8:11*

5. The Holy Spirit Is The Power of God

- *Read: Luke 1:35; Luke 4:1, 14; Acts 10:38; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 1:19-21*

SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

These are some of the characteristics of the Holy Spirit, which are also essential traits of God the Father and God the Son

1. **He is Omnipotent** – All powerful. (*Luke 1:35; Ephesians 1:19-20*)
2. **He is Omnipresent** – Ever-present. At all places at once, that is, present everywhere at the same time (*Psalms 139:7*)
3. **He is Omniscient** – All knowing. He has unlimited knowledge, that is, He knows everything and all things. (*1 Corinthians 2:10*)
4. **He is Eternal** – Everlasting, forever, never-ending and timeless. (*Hebrews 9:14*)
5. **He is God** (*Acts 5:3-4*)

- **The Holy Spirit was part of all things, from the very beginning of scripture to the very end of scripture**

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

“And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.” - Joel 2:28-29

The way Holy Spirit operates in the New Testament (NT) is different from how He operated in the Old Testament (OT).

There are several major contrasts between the Old Covenant and New Covenant work of the Holy Spirit:

1. In the OT the Holy Spirit was *WITH* rather than *IN* God's people. Therefore, the Holy Spirit "came upon" specific people, judges, kings, prophets, artisans, etc, to help them fulfil their assignments from God.

- *(Judges 14:6; 1 Samuel 16:13; Micah 3:8; Exodus 31:3)*

2. In the OT, the Holy Spirit's involvement was selective, not universal. Not all OT believers received the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

In the NT all believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and receive His other ministries.

3. In the OT, the Holy Spirit's involvement was *temporary*, not *permanent*. Whereas in the NT, His involvement is for the lifetime of the believer.

- *Read: Joel 2:28-29; John 14:26; Acts 1:8*

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BELIEVER'S LIFE

“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever--Is called the Comforter” - John 14:16 (AMP)

After salvation, the Holy Spirit plays a dual role in the Believer's life:

1. **Transformation:** The Holy Spirit works in us to transform us into the image of Christ, and to sanctify us for glory.
2. **Empowerment:** The Holy Spirit works through us to fulfil Christ's Kingdom Mission on earth.

THE TRANSFORMING ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Working together with the word of God in our lives, the Holy Spirit sanctifies us.

This means He sets us apart for God, cleanses us and puts us in order so that we can more truly show forth the love of God and the nature and characteristics of Jesus. This is what is known as the Fruit the Spirit. *(See page 14)*

1. The Holy Spirit regenerates us - John 3:5-6

At the time of salvation, The human spirit, once dead in sin, is regenerated or made completely new in the image Christ by the power and working of the Holy Spirit. This is what it means to be born of the Spirit or “born from above”

- *Read: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5*

2. The Holy Spirit affirms us as children (sons) of God – Galatians 4:6-7

When we have been born again from above, the Holy Spirit affirms us as sons of God, just as He affirmed Jesus on the day He was baptised. He descended on Jesus and declared Him the Son of God. By faith, we also receive the Spirit's affirmation.

- *Read: Matt 3:16-17; Romans 8:15-17*

3. The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ – John 16:14

The Holy Spirit always works to bring glory and honour to Jesus Christ. He does not seek His own glory, but the glory of Jesus. The Holy Spirit brings glory to Jesus by telling us whatever He receives from Him to us.

- *Read: 1 Corinthians 12:3; 1 John 4:2; 1 Corinthians 2:10-16*

4. The Holy Spirit reveals Christ to us and through us. – John 16:14-15

Jesus said, "*He will take of what is mine and declare it to you*". It is the Holy Spirit who communicates to our souls the knowledge of who Jesus is and what He is like. Through the Word of God, the Holy Spirit gives us revelation and helps us to know and understand more about Jesus, His Kingdom and His plans and purposes for our lives and the nations.

- *Read: Colossians 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-16*

At the same time the Holy Spirit works in us to make us more like Jesus. As we are continually filled with the Holy Spirit, and are led by Him daily in obeying the Word of God, our nature is transformed into the nature of the Son of God, till Christ is revealed in us.

- *Read: Ephesians 3:16-17; Eph 5:1; Romans 8:11; Luke 11:36*

5. The Holy Spirit helps us live the victorious Christian life, free from sin, guilt and condemnation. - *Romans 8:1-2*

The only way we can subdue and master sin is to submit to the control and leading of the Holy Spirit.

- Read: *Romans 7:14-8:11; Galatians 5:16-17; James 4:7*

6. The Holy Spirit leads and guides us – *Romans 8:14*

Following the leading and guidance of the Spirit is what produces maturity in us. Maturity is more than knowledge; it is fruit that comes from our relationship with the Spirit of God.

7. The Holy Spirit helps us with the word of God, teaches us, and guides us into all truth – *John 16:13*

The Holy Spirit leads us to a deeper understanding of truth. If we allow ourselves to be guided by Him, He shows us truths from the scripture that we need to know and understand. He is the Spirit of wisdom, knowledge and understanding. The Holy Spirit never guides us in any way contrary to scripture, which is the word of God.

- Read: *John 14:26; 2 Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 11:1-2*

8. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray – *Romans 8:26-27*

The Spirit of God knows what we should pray for and how. That is why we must let Him help us pray. One way in which He helps us pray is through the special prayer language He gives us when we are baptised in the Spirit. (*Read: 1 Corinthians 14:15*)

9. The Holy Spirit counsels and comforts us - *Acts 9:31*

This means that the Holy Spirit is with us to strengthen, encourage and help us. He eases our burdens and relieves us from our fears, insecurities, etc. He is present with us, like a mother hen,

protecting, preserving, supporting and helping us.

10. The Holy Spirit is the seal and guarantee of all God's promises to us, including eternal life. (Ephesians 1:13b-14)

The Holy Spirit is the Guarantee of our inheritance in Christ Jesus, until the day of full manifestation and possession. God sent His Holy Spirit to us as a formal assurance, promise, seal and pledge that He will fulfil all the He has promised us in Christ Jesus!

THE EMPOWERING ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." - Acts 1:8

The Holy Spirit plays the most crucial role in empowering us to fulfil the Great Commission. Jesus specifically cautioned His disciples not to go forth without Him. Without Him we cannot go forth and fulfil our mission. His role is vital

- *Read: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18*

1. The Holy Spirit empowers us to fulfil our assignment and do the Kingdom works and acts that Jesus said we would do in His name. (Matthew 10:7-11; Corinthians 4:20)

- This power of the Spirit is often referred to as the "anointing". It is the anointing that enables us to do what Christ wants us to do as sons of God, that is, to destroy the works of the devil.
- We need the Holy Spirit to empower and enable us to effectively preach the Gospel and demonstrate the power of God.
- *Read: Isaiah 61:1-4; 1 John 3:8b; Mark 16:17,18; John 14:12; 1 Corinthians 2:4-5;*

2. The Holy Spirit Equips Us For Service (1 Corinthians 12:8-11)

The Holy Spirit equips us for service by giving each one of us special supernatural gifts and abilities.

These gifts are given as the Spirit decides. They are useful in evangelism and in every part of Christian ministry. In neglecting them, the church has neglected an important God-ordained means for extending and building God's Kingdom on earth. (See page 20)

3. The Holy Spirit Enables Us To Perform The Kingdom Works of God (Mark 16:17-18)

- **Isaiah 61:1-4** summarises the work that the Holy Spirit anoints, enables and empowers us to do.

“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon me, for the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the broken-hearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the LORD’s favour has come, and with it, the day of God’s anger against their enemies. To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the LORD has planted for his own glory. They will rebuild the ancient ruins, repairing cities destroyed long ago. They will revive them, though they have been deserted for many generations.” (NLT)

4. The Holy Spirit Convicts The World (John 16:8-11)

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. Without this special work of the Holy Spirit people would not be deeply convinced of their sinfulness, God's righteousness and judgment, or the need for repentance. When sharing the

gospel, we may quote the Word of God but it is the Holy Spirit who brings conviction to the heart of the hearer. (See page 27)

RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

- *Read: Joel 2:28-29*

Receiving the Holy Spirit at conversion and **receiving the baptism of** the Holy Spirit are two separate, different and distinct experiences.

- Jesus' disciples received the Holy Spirit on the day of His resurrection, when He breathed on them. At that moment the disciples passed from OT living under the Law to NT salvation by grace. - *John 20:21-22*
- After this experience, on the day of His ascension, Jesus told His disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait for the promised Holy Spirit, Who would baptize them with power.
- We also received the Holy Spirit when we experienced salvation through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit came to indwell, regenerate, identify and distinguish us as children of God and part of Christ

"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His." - Romans 8:9

RECEIVING THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

However, receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a totally different experience. After experiencing salvation, you become eligible to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This can happen on the same

day as your conversion or as a separate experience from conversion.

- Just before He left for heaven, Jesus promised His disciples that they would have this encounter. He emphasized the importance of this experience by commanding them to wait for it before stepping out. Jesus also gave them the purpose for being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift from Jesus Christ to the church, to empower and enable us to effectively do the work He committed into our hands.

- *Read: Acts 1:4-5; Acts 1:8*
- Several weeks after Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit on His disciples, they experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room.

Read: Acts 2:1-4; Acts 8:14-17; Acts 9:9, 17-18; Acts 10:44-48

WHAT IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is an experience a believer encounters, when the Holy Spirit comes upon them and fills and submerges them in Him. The Greek word for baptism is: *"baptizō"*

- This means to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge and sink a vessel or utensil.
- It means to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe.
- It also means to overwhelm (overcome/overpower)
- When we are baptized into the Holy Spirit, not only does He fill us, we are also immersed into Him and soaked in Him.

“John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire”
- **Luke 3:16**

Manifestations Of the Baptism Of Holy Spirit

- Speaking in tongues
- Demonstrating the Power of God
- Boldness to preach the gospel
- Signs and wonders following the preaching of the gospel

HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- You must be born-again
- The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift received by faith. All you need to do is to ask, but you must receive by faith.
- Begin to pray with an expectant heart.
- Do not worry if nothing seems to happen at first, keep praying, keep worshipping, keep asking and keep expecting. (*Luke 11:13*)
- You may ask your pastor or another mature Christian who has already received the baptism of the Holy Spirit to lay hands on you and pray with/for you.

BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

After the initial baptism of the Holy Spirit, the bible instructs us to continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the infilling of the Holy Spirit is not a one-off experience, but a daily engagement with and experience of Him

“Do not get drunk with wine, for this is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18)

God wants every area of the believer’s life to be under the influence of the Holy Spirit. A man filled with alcohol comes under its control and its effects are seen in every area of his life. The same must apply to our experience of the Holy Spirit.

- To be filled (Greek – “*pleroo*”) means to fill up, abound and make full. It also means to be complete and make perfect. Therefore, we are to be filled and continued to be filled with the Holy Spirit and come into perfection in the Spirit.
- Read: *Luke 4:1, 14-15; Acts 4:8; Acts 6:3, 5; Acts 11:24; Acts 13:52*

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

- **Read Galatians 5:22-25**

The fruit of the Spirit is the character of God, which the in-dwelling Holy Spirit, if He is in control of our lives, develops and exhibits in us.

- The Holy Spirit works in us, through the word, to form the nature of Christ in us, and as we are continually filled with the Holy Spirit, our nature is changed into His and the character of God is formed in us.

Read: Exodus 34:6-7; 2 Corinthians 3:7-18.

- The fruit of the Spirit, therefore, is the visible attributes of a true Christian life, that is, the manifestation of the nature and character of Christ in us. The fruit of the Spirit is a physical manifestation of a Christian's transformed life.
- It is important and essential that we allow the Holy Spirit to have His way in our lives and continue the work of transformation in us and make us more like Jesus Christ.

THE NINE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” - Galatians 5:22-25

1. LOVE: Greek ‘*Agape*’ – unconditional love.

This is the kind of love that Jesus Christ demonstrated to us and wants us to demonstrate to each other and to the world. This type of love is unconditional, and is full described in *1 Corinthians 13*

- We can love unconditionally through Jesus Christ.
- *Read: John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; 1 John 4:16*

2. JOY: Greek “*Chara*” – gladness, joy

The joy the Holy Spirit gives is not just happiness, since happiness depends on what is happening around us. Pure joy is a ‘bubbling’ within, irrespective of circumstance and experience.

- Joy produces strength which sustains us through life’s trials and testing.
- *Read: Nehemiah 8:10; Philippians 4:4; Hebrews 12:2; James 1:2; Isaiah 12:2-3;*

3. PEACE: Greek “*Eirene*”

This type of peace is a ‘state’ of tranquillity - an inner calmness and freedom from strife. This is also not determined by circumstance and sometimes does not even make sense.

- It is the settle assurance of the soul that knows contentment and is free from fear, anxiety and worry, not because there are no challenges, but because one trusts in God.
- *Read: Romans 15:13; Philippians 4:6-7*

4. PATIENCE: Greek “*makrothymia*”

To be patient is to be longsuffering. To be patient or longsuffering is to be forbearing and to be ‘slow’ to retaliate, respond to or avenge wrongs.

- It is not always easy to be patient or longsuffering towards others, but the Holy Spirit helps us and works this in us.
- *Read: Colossians 1:11; Ephesians 4:1-6*

5. KINDNESS: Greek “*Chrestotes*”

Kindness is an attitude and a state of mind and heart to do good and to show compassion. The bible admonishes us to live in purity, patience and kindness, in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love.

- *Read: Ephesians 4:30-32; Provers 31:26*

6. GOODNESS: Greek “*agathosune*”

Goodness means a generosity and uprightness of heart. It means to act righteously, uprightly and with integrity. To be good is to be decent, benevolent and virtuous.

- God alone is good and so the Holy Spirit works goodness in us and enables us to exhibit the goodness of God to others.
- *Read: Luke 18:19; Acts 10:38; Ephesians 5:9*

7. FAITHFULNESS: Greek “*pistis*”

Faithfulness begins with faith, a belief and an assurance and conviction that God exists and loves us. This assurance and conviction becomes the foundation of our walk with God, and is what keeps us faithful, committed, and true to our Lord Jesus Christ. God rewards faithfulness.

- In being faithful, you develop the character of a person God can rely on. The Holy Spirit helps you to remain steadfast and constant despite the challenges and trials of our walk and faith.
- *Read: Proverbs 28:20; Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 11*
- *Hebrews 11* records a list of people who remained faithful to God.

8. MEEKNESS OR GENTLENESS: Greek “*praotes*”

To be meek is to be gentle, mild, humble and gracious and tender. In our aggressive, self-centred world, meekness is often seen as a weakness. However, meekness is a quality which Jesus told us we are to acquire, if we are to inherit the earth.

- Meekness is not a wishy-washy, unassertive attitude, but rather, an unwillingness to use our power and authority to elevate ourselves, or our strength and position to undermine, wound or frighten others.
- *Read: Matthew 5:5; Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 4:2*

9. TEMPERANCE OR SELF-CONTROL: Greek “*egkrateia*”

A temperate person is one who is able to master his desires and passions, especially, his sensual appetites. It is someone who has self-control, self-restraint and continence

- It is necessary to develop self-control if we are to overcome the flesh and lead the victorious Christian life. The Holy Spirit helps us develop self-control.
- *Read: 2 Peter 1:5-7; Titus 1:8;*

THE WORKS OF THE FLESH

If we don't live and walk in the Spirit, we will not develop the fruit of the Spirit and grow in maturity. (*Read: Galatians 5:16-21*)

- On the contrary, we will exhibit the 'works of the flesh,' which are detailed below:

"The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God." - Galatians 5:19-21

We must, therefore, endeavour to live and walk by the Spirit so that we can develop and display the character and nature of Jesus and bring glory to His Name.

- *Read: Romans 8:1; Ephesians 3:14-19*

MANY SEEK THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT WITHOUT FIRST ACQUIRING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IN THEIR LIVES. WE MUST HAVE THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT AT WORK IN US FOR THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT TO MANIFEST AND OPERATE EFFECTIVELY IN OUR LIVES.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

EQUIPPED FOR SERVICE

One of the awesome and dynamic roles of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life is to equip him/her for service. He does this by giving special supernatural gifts that help us in our worship, walk and work. These gifts are from God to the Church to help her fulfil Her Kingdom mission on earth.

- *Read: 1 Corinthians 12*

CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

"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. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all " - 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

1. The gifts are different and diverse but given to the Body of Christ by the Holy Spirit
2. The gifts work and operate in different ways but the same God works all of them in all believers.
3. The gifts of the Spirit are given to individual members of the Body of Christ, to the profit of the entire Body. The manifestation of each gift is given for the common good of the entire Body of Christ.
4. The gifts are not given for individual benefit or profit.
5. The gifts are given as the Spirit of God decides.

THE NINE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

“For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.” - 1 Corinthians 12:8-10

1. WORD OF WISDOM: Greek “*sophia*”

A Word of Wisdom supernaturally discloses the mind, plan and will of God, in a particular situation. It is the knowhow, supernaturally and divinely given and applied to produce results that edify and build.

- This Spirit-given wisdom provides the best solution for an issue, a conflict or a problem. It gives the best and most effective answer to a difficult question, the best way to act, or respond, in a problematic situation. It also gives the ability to apply knowledge in a practical way.

Examples:

- *Read: Matthew 10:19-20; Mark 13:11; Luke 12:11-12; Acts 15:8-21; 1 Kings 3:16-28*

2. WORD OF KNOWLEDGE: Greek “*gnosis*”

A Word of Knowledge is a supernatural revelation given by the Holy Spirit about a specific person/situation, and often has to do with an immediate need.

- People with this gift supernaturally receive information and clear facts that only God could have known and conveyed to them about a given situation. (*Isaiah 11:2*)

- Word of knowledge reveals information about both the past and present. It is not natural knowledge that was gained through learning or experience. It is knowledge that could only be known by divine inspiration.

Examples:

- *Read: John 1:45-48; Acts 5:1-4; 2 Kings 6:8-12; 2 Chronicles 1:10-13; Daniel 5:12; Colossians 2:3*

3. GIFT OF FAITH: (Greek: “pistis”)

The Gift of Faith is different from the normal faith of the believer. This gift is the grace God gives to an individual to exercise extraordinary confidence and faith in His word, will and purposes.

- This gift is a special release of supernatural faith for a miracle or for the impossible to be made possible. Those who possess it believe God in such a way that God honours their word as His own and miraculously brings it to pass.
- The gift of faith is often accompanied by the gifts of healings and the working of miracles.

Examples:

- *Read: Luke 1:26-38; Heb 11; Acts 3 Kings 17:1-7; 1 Kings 17:7-16*

4. GIFTS OF HEALINGS: Greek “iama”

This is the supernatural ability to supernaturally heal diverse kinds of diseases and infirmities without natural means of any sort. They are healings that God performs supernaturally through the believer who possesses the gift.

- People who operate the gifts of healings have the supernatural

ability to perform diverse kinds of healings, including the blind seeing, deaf hearing, lame walking, mute speaking and new limbs and organs growing, etc.

Examples:

- *Read: John 9:1-7; Luke 5:17-26; Acts 5:14-16; Acts 3:1-16; Acts 19:11-12; Acts 28:7-9*
- **We earnestly need this gift to be restored to the Church!!!**

5. GIFT OF DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS: *Greek diakrisis*

This is the ability given by the Holy Spirit, to discern the hidden source of spiritual power through which a person is thinking, speaking or/and acting. This gift exposes or reveals if a person is either speaking or acting out from their own human spirit, through a demonic/evil spirit (e.g. divination) or through the Spirit of God.

- The gift of discerning of spirits can also help us to deepen our perception of the workings of the true Spirit of God.
- We need this gift now, more than ever, to protect the Church, especially young believers, from deception, particularly in the areas of doctrine and the prophetic.

Examples:

- *Read: Acts 5:1-4; Acts 16:16-19; 1 John 4:1-3; 1 Kings 22:9-22*

6. WORKING OF MIRACLES: *Greek "dunamis"*

The working of miracles is a manifestation of divine power to perform something that could not be done naturally. A miracle is a sovereign act of God that works irrespective of and against natural laws or

orders. The purpose of this gift is to intervene in a natural process or condition, in order to show the supernatural power and might of God.

- People with the gift of miracles perform miracles, in the name of Jesus, that cannot be ascribed to human power, strength, wisdom, intelligence, ability or performance.

Examples:

- *Read: Luke 5:1-11; John 2:1-11; Acts 9:36-42 Acts 19:11; Acts 28:3-6*

7. GIFT OF PROPHECY: Greek: “propheteia”

The gift of prophecy is the God-given ability to receive and reveal truth, and declare it in a timely and relevant manner to bring understanding, correction, repentance or edification.

- Prophecy is a divinely inspired utterance in a known language.
- The gift of prophecy is different from the gift of word of knowledge. However, it can be combined with the gifts of wisdom, knowledge and discernment.
- The purpose of prophecy in the New Testament Church is to EDIFY (build up), EXHORT and ENCOURAGE the believers.

“But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.” - 1 Corinthians 14:3

- Prophetic utterances must be evaluated and judged by other believers and must be in line with scripture. (1 Corinthians 14:1-4, 29-33)

Examples:

- *Read: Acts 11:27-30; Various examples in the book of Acts*

8. DIFFERENT KINDS OF TONGUES: Greek: “glossa”

The gift of different kinds of tongues operates in two ways:

- a. As a supernatural utterance by the Holy Spirit in an heavenly language which no human mind can interpret, except by the Spirit.

When this gift manifests as a prophetic utterance in a corporate gathering, it must be accompanied by the gift of interpretation of tongues for it to benefit the Church.

- b. As a supernatural utterance of an earthly language never learned by the speaker and not understood by the mind of the speaker. The hearer, however, understands what is being said because it is in their language, and marvels at this and praises God.

Speaking in unknown tongues can be a powerful sign to an unbeliever that God is present and speaking to him – *1 Corinthians 14:22-25*

Example:

- *Read: Acts 2:1-13* (The day of Pentecost)

9. INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

This is the gift of interpretation of a message received from God through the gift of speaking in tongues, so that the hearers may understand. Speaking in unknown tongues is usually not understood by those present, but the interpretation brings understanding.

- People with the gift of interpretation, by the Holy Spirit, can supernaturally give the meaning of an utterance in other tongues.
- This interpretation is not an operation of the mind of the interpreter but the mind of the Spirit of God

HOW TO OPERATE OR MANIFEST THE GIFTS

“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy” 1 Corinthians 14:1

1. **Follow the way of love** - this must be a lifestyle. Love and compassion towards others are a catalyst for the manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit.
 - Love personifies the entire fruit of the Spirit and demonstrates the presence of Jesus in our lives. All our desires and actions must be motivated by love for God and our neighbour. The gifts will be activated if our desires are motivated by love.
2. **Cultivate a daily lifestyle** of prayer, worship and studying the word and living in obedience to God's word. This will cause you to grow and mature in the things of the Spirit and of God.
3. **Learn to walk in the Spirit**, in obedience to the Word of God. Cultivate a habit of fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit in prayer and worship. Engage with the Holy Spirit by asking Him to lead and guide you in every area of your life. Trust Him to lead and direct you, and when He does, be obedient to Him.

“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” - Proverbs 3:6

4. **Have a desire for the Gifts of the Spirit**, and just pray and ask God! The bible says,

“Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened.” - Matthew 7:7

- Therefore, ask God to stir up His gifts in you. Trust God to decide which gift to endow you with, but desire especially to prophecy. *(Luke 11:13)*

5. **Serve the Lord** - Since the gifts are for the Church in service, it is important that you actively engage in the assignment Jesus gave us in the Great Commission.
 - Share the Gospel with others, serve in your local church and beyond, pray and intercede for others. (*1 Timothy 2:1-3*). The gifts will manifest as you serve the Lord.
6. **Exercise faith.** Step out in faith and obedience to the leading and prompting of the Holy Spirit. Without faith we cannot receive anything from God. It takes time to gain confidence, so, keep 'practicing' and stepping out in faith.
 - If you step out and there is no manifestation, praise God, keep praying and wait for the next opportunity. If you make a mistake, take it to the Lord and ask the Holy Spirit to show you the right way. **When in doubt, wait!**
7. **Make yourself accountable** to others, especially those who have spiritual oversight of you. Accept correction, especially, if given in love and in line with the scriptures.
8. **Humility** - remain humble, especially if your are graced with the power gifts. Remember that it is God who is working in and through you, to bring glory to none other than Himself. **AVOID PRIDE!**
9. **Give honour to the Holy Spirit** in all that you do. Do not grieve Him, but honour and revere Him. He is God and He is Holy! Give God ALL the glory. Thank Him! Praise Him.

“BUT YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU; AND YOU SHALL BE WITNESSES TO ME IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE END OF THE EARTH.”

EVANGELISM

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!”” - Romans 10:14-15)

- Evangelism is the spreading of the Christian Gospel by public preaching or personal witness.
- It is sharing and spreading the Gospel, through personal witness, preaching and teaching, in order to persuade someone to believe and be converted.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND EVANGELISM

Jesus instructed us in the Great Commission to go out into the world and preach (share) the Good News His Kingdom with all.

“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”” - Mark 16:15-18

- Read also: *Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:46-48*

The final instruction Jesus gave His disciples concerning the Great Commission was for them to wait for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, therefore, plays the most crucial role in evangelism. Without Him we cannot go forth.

The Holy Spirit was sent to be with the Church and empower us to fulfil our purpose on earth, particularly, the Great Commission.

- Read: *Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5*

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN EVANGELISM

1. The Holy Spirit emboldens us to preach and share the Gospel.

He gives us the words to say and the boldness to say it. He then works supernaturally through us to endorse the Gospel

- Read: *Acts 2; Acts 4:1-31; Matthew 10:18-20; Luke 12:11-12.*

2. The Holy Spirit enables and empowers us to demonstrate the works of the Kingdom - *Acts 1:8*

This power of the Spirit is often referred to as “the anointing.” It is the anointing which enables us to do what Christ wants us to do as sons of God. And that is, to destroy the works of the devil.

The Holy Spirit also gives us supernatural gifts, known as the Gifts of the Spirit, which are useful in evangelism. (*see page 20.*)

- Read: *Matt 10:1, 7-8; Mark 16:17,18; John 14:12; 1 John 3:8b; 1 Corinthians 2:4, 1 Corinthians 4:20.*

3. When we share the Good News with others, it is the Holy Spirit who convicts them. - *John 16:8.*

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. Without this special work of the Holy Spirit people would not be deeply convinced of their sinfulness, God's righteousness or the need for repentance. When sharing the gospel, we may quote the Word of God but it is the Holy Spirit who brings conviction

- Read: *1 Corinthians 14:22-25;*

4. The Holy Spirit Regenerates through the New Birth - *John 3:5-6*

At the time of salvation, the Holy Spirit causes the spirit of a person to be born anew and regenerated in the image of Christ.

- Read: *2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5*

ISAIAH 61:1-4 SUMMARISES THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN EVANGELISM:

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified. And they shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations.”

LET THE
TRUTH
BE TOLD

Watch the series of teachings on Knowing The Holy Spirit
on LET THE TRUTH BE TOLD, our YouTube channel



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