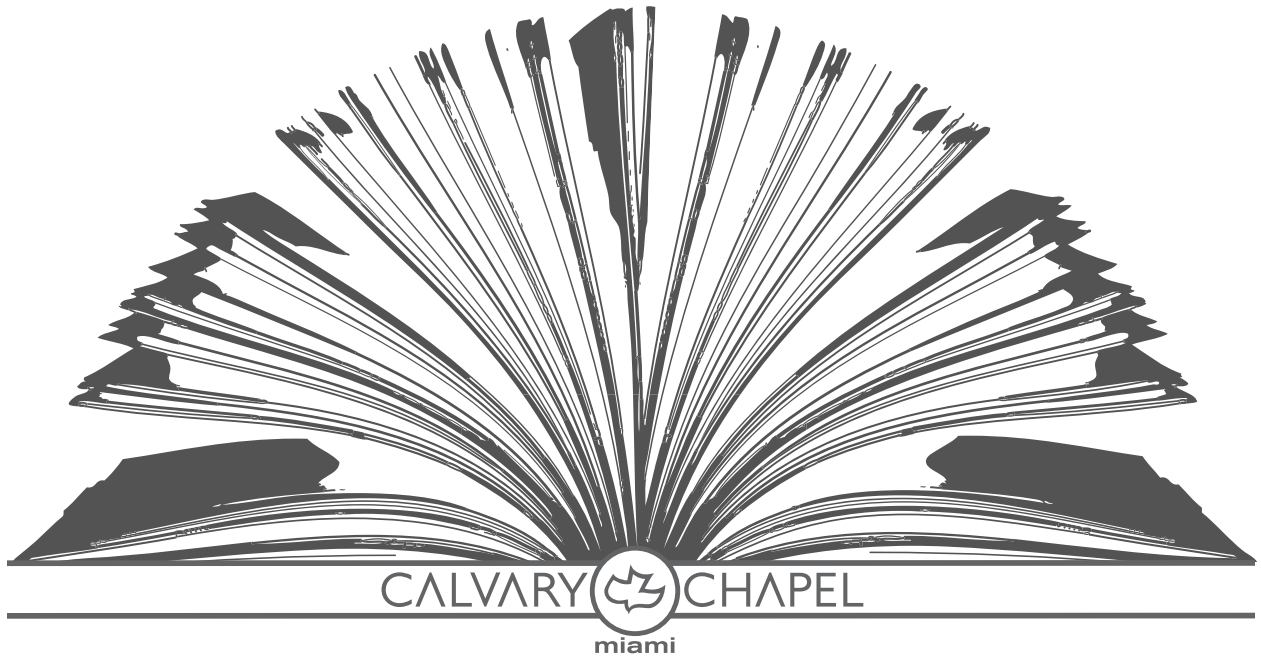


FOUNDATIONS **of** FAITH

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth. **2 Timothy 2:15**



SESSION 8

Baptism with the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third part of the GodHead. If you have any questions on this statement, please make reference to the Bible and the hand-out given on the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT

Read **Acts 1:4-5**

What were the believers instructed to wait for?

Read **Acts 2:17**

What will happen in the last days?

THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

Read **Acts 1:8**

What will the believer receive?

What will receiving the “power” of the Holy Spirit enable the believer to be?

The word power in Greek is *dunamis* from which we derive the English word *dynamic* or *dynamite*.

EXAMPLES

a) Before Peter received the power of the Holy Spirit, he was afraid to be identified with Jesus (**Mark 14:53-72**) even though he wanted to (**Mark 14:27-31**). After he received the power, he witnessed boldly to the same group of people who had tried Jesus (**Acts 4:5-23**), even telling them that there was no salvation apart from Christ. Then when Peter went back to the Christians, they prayed for greater boldness (**v. 23-31**).

b) We must allow the Holy Spirit to change us from within rather than trying to change the outside ourselves and then hoping we will change inside (**Romans 8**). As we yield each area of our lives to the Spirit, He conforms us into the image of Christ.

c) First mention of the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. Here we have John the Baptist making mention of Jesus being the one baptizing with the Holy Spirit. **Matthew 3:11** *“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”*

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE

According to **John 13:35**

What is the mark of a disciple?

“*Agape*” love is the deep, spiritual giving, godly love not the “*eros*” (physical love) or the “*phileo*” (brotherly, companionship love). It is a supernatural love.

AGAPE LOVE DESCRIBED

Read **1 Corinthians 13**

Love: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____
7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____
10. _____ 11. _____ 12. _____
13. _____ 14. _____ 15. _____
16. _____

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

According to **1 Corinthians 12:1**

Of what does Paul say not to be ignorant?

Read **1 Corinthians 12:31, Ephesians 4:7-12, and 1 Corinthians 14:12.**

WORD OF WISDOM

There is a difference between the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge. Knowledge is the assimilation of facts. Wisdom is the proper application of knowledge.

- **Acts 7** Stephen given the of wisdom
- **Acts 23** Paul before the council shares words of wisdom
- **Luke 20:21-26** Jesus before the chief priests and elders

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

- A word of knowledge is that word that can only be known through the Spirit of God.
- The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to us according to His will. Though He may give two people the same gift, the gift may operate differently in them (diversities of operations, **1 Corinthians 12:6**).

Words of Knowledge Through Jesus
John 1:45-51, Mark 11:1-7, Luke 22:7-13, Matthew 17: 24-27

Words of Knowledge Through Paul
Acts 27:10, Acts 27:23-26

GIFT OF DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

- **Revelation 2:2** - Jesus commending the church of Ephesus because they could discern spirits. They recognized the false apostles and rejected their teaching.
- False prophets or teachers often say mostly true things. We must listen very carefully because their lies are subtle and the errors they teach are damning.
- People are often misled by false prophets because they don't listen carefully. They are lulled by the truth in the message and do not catch the lies.
- Another reason people are led astray by false teaching is that they really don't know God's word. They haven't grounded their faith in the bible by careful study.
- There are two ways to test a false prophet.
 - 1) Listened to his testimony.
 - 2) See if he puts a strong emphasis on money. Paul discerning of spirits (**Acts 16:16-18**).

GIFT OF MIRACLES

- If we cannot believe in God, we cannot believe in miracles (Acts 26:8).
- A miracle is God operating according to laws higher than the laws of nature that we know and understand. He supersedes the laws we know (**Isaiah 55:8; Colosians 2:2-3**).
- It is dangerous to follow after miracles because not all miracles are of God; some are of Satan and meant to deceive (**2 Thessalonians 2:9**).
- If we have the gift of miracles operating through us, there is a temptation to use miracles for our own benefits (**Luke 4:1-4**).
- There is a danger that we will accept adulation from people for miracles performed through us (**Acts 14:8-18**).

GIFT OF FAITH

Our Faith Comes From God.

- Jesus commanded us to "have faith in God" (Mark 11:22) and He gave us the capacity to fulfill His command (**Romans 12:3, Hebrews 12:2**).
- Hebrews 11 deals with faith from God.
 - 1) Faith is believing what we cannot see (**Hebrew 11:1**).
 - 2) When we come to God, we must believe two things: That He is and that He rewards those who seek Him (**Hebrews 11:6**).
 - 3) Faith helps us to do the impossible (**Hebrews 11:33-36**).
- The gift of faith must be used in love (**1 Corinthians 13:2**). All the gifts of the Spirit are received and exercised by faith (**Romans 12:6**). Peter said that faith in Jesus and the faith by Jesus healed a man (**Acts 3:16**).
- Our faith is tested when we don't see immediate results after we have stepped out in faith. Sometimes there is a time interval before God makes His move and we must wait for Him with faith and patience (**Hebrews 6:12, 10:36, 11:1, James 1:3**).

- God wants to work miracles in our time just as He did in Moses, Elisha, Jonah, Jesus, Philip, Paul, and Peter. He will use us if we have been crucified with Christ and are letting Christ live through us (**Galatians 2:20**). (2) If we have the gift of miracles it does not mean we can work miracles anytime we want to. The Holy Spirit controls this gift. (3) We need to expand the limits of what we think God can do. He can do anything! (Genesis 18:14).

THE GIFT OF HEALING

- Sickness and healing
 - 1) Sickness and aging came into the world with the sin of Adam and Eve. A sick person is not necessarily sick because of sin in his life, but because of sin in the world.
 - 2) **Isaiah 53:5-7** speaks prophetically of the beating that Jesus took for our healing. Jesus purchased our salvation at the cross and our healing at the whipping post.
 - 3) God promised to heal us (**Exodus 15:26**).
- We do not have the gift of healing to pray for someone to be healed. The believers should pray for one another (**James 5:14**).
- During the communion service, we are to appropriate the healing that Jesus purchased for us when He allowed His body to be broken (**Luke 22:19**) by the beating (**I Corinthians 11:30**)

THE GIFT OF TONGUES

- About the Gift of Tongues
 - 1) Jesus said that speaking in tongues would be a sign of a believer (**Mark 16:17**).
 - 2) **Acts 2** contains an account of how the gift of the tongues was given to the believers. "As the Spirit gave them utterance" could also be translated "as the Spirit prompted their speech" or "as the Spirit gave them ability to speak" (**v.4**). The multitude that gathered heard the believers speaking in several different dialects.
 - 3) Language is an agreement between people that certain sounds have certain meanings.
 - Uses of the Gift of Tongues
 - 1) The gift of tongues allows us by the Spirit to express ourselves to God without funneling our feelings through our intellect. When words cannot express what we feel, we use a spiritual language that is beyond the limits of our understanding, so our prayer life is more satisfying (I Corinthians 14:4).
 - 2) Paul taught that the best use of the gift of tongues is in our private devotions rather than in public worship (I Corinthians 14).
- a) The purpose of the gift of tongues is to communicate with God.
 - b) Although some churches allow what they call "messages in tongues" to be delivered during public services, actually these utterances are not "messages" at all, because tongues are directed to God.
 - c) Many times the interpretation that follows a message in tongues is really a prophecy, because it is spoken from God to the church. An interpretation of tongues will be prayer to God (Acts 2:11).
 - d) Paul indicated that we can control the gift of tongues. The Spirit does not compel someone to interrupt a service with tongues. We can speak to God quietly within ourselves if we feel the Spirit moving (I Corinthians 14:28, 33).
 - e) When a person shouts, uses a shrill tone, or sustains sounds, that is not the Spirit speaking but the person reacting to Him. We can whisper in tongues if we choose to.

3) The Spirit helps us in our prayer life when we do not know how to pray for a situation Romans 8:26,27). (a) If we are unaware of needs or unsure of God's will in a matter that needs prayer, we can sometimes ask Him to do something that is in direct opposition to His will. Our prayer in the Spirit is always according to the will of God. (b) When we pray in the Spirit, we pray unhindered by our flesh, so selfishness and other sinful attitudes are eliminated from our prayer (James 4:2-3). (c) If a person does not want to use the gift of tongues in his prayer life, he has probably magnified his intellect to the point that he will not say anything that his intellect cannot grasp. Therefore, his prayer life is limited to English (or in the language he is more fluent in) and he misses a rich dimension in his prayer life.

THE GIFT OF TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION

- The gift of tongues is not the only evidence of the filling of the Holy Spirit.
- Some people feel that the gift of tongues was for the early church but not for today.
 - (a) They use **I Corinthians 13:8** as the basis for their belief. However, prophecies have not failed and knowledge has increased, rather than vanished.
 - (b) They say v. 10, "that which is perfect" refers to the Bible and that since we have the complete Scriptures, tongues are unnecessary. However, tongues were never used as a teaching tool like the Bible is. We believe "that which is perfect" refers to Jesus and His second coming and that prophecy and tongues are valid gifts until then.

Interpretation of tongues

If we speak in tongues in a group of believers, we need to pray for the interpretation (I Corinthians 14:13). Otherwise, we are edified but the others are not (**v.16-19**).

An interpretation of tongues is usually the expression of thoughts that are given to us by the Spirit.

Interpretation of tongues will be prayers offered to God. If someone gives an "interpretation" addressed to the church, then it is actually a prophecy, not an interpretation to tongues.

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

The gift of prophecy has greater value in the church than the gift of tongues (**I Corinthians 14:2-5**).

- The purposes of the gift of prophecy. Jesus Christ is edified (built up) in us by the encouragement and reassurance in prophecies.
- The church is exhorted to Christian activity to trust, pray, praise, step out in faith in prophecies. Praise is especially important for the church to practice (**Psalm 22:3**).
- When God speaks to us in prophecy, His Spirit speaks to our spirit, not to our intellect (**Romans 8:16**).
- It takes faith for any spiritual gifts to operate in us because we must cooperate with divine power, rather than a material power. He does not totally take us over so we must consciously take part (**I Corinthians 14:32**).
- When the Spirit told the church to send our missionaries, He probably spoke through the prophets in the church (**Acts 13:1-2**).
- How to Judge Prophecy

1) Not everything that sounds like prophecy is truly prophecy (**I Corinthians 14:29**), so we must judge prophecy to discern truth from error.

a) The bases for judging prophecies: (i) Is it in harmony with the written Word of God (Galatians 1:8)? (ii) Does it come to pass (Deuteronomy 18:20-22)? It must be 100% accuracy (I John 4:1-6). (iii) What does it teach about Jesus Christ and salvation?

2) Prophecy usually comes to us as a thought or a thought pattern. Sometimes only one sentence comes until we have spoken it, and then the rest of the prophecy flows forth. We need to take the first step by faith.

3) God reveals His will and plans for us through prophecy, so it is a useful gift in the church.

GIFT OF HELPS

- In **Corinthians 12:28**, the ministries are listed and then the gifts that help us to fulfill those ministries. God equips us for the ministry He calls us to.
- The gift of helps is what Christianity is all about. It takes thought and consideration to perform this ministry. The Spirit makes us sensitive and attuned to one another (**I Corinthians 12:26**).
- The gifts of helps are a witness to others of Christ in us. These gifts are practical evidence of love. They should be done with cheerfulness (hilarity) and as unto the Lord (**Romans 12:8, Colossians 3:17**).
- We should exercise the ministry of helps so that we are not seeking praise from others for ourselves. God should receive the glory from what we do.
- We need to be satisfied with where God places us in the body and fulfill our ministry joyfully as unto Him.