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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this little manual is to help those who have come to treasure the love of God and want to help others to find, what they have been so blessed to receive.

It is a manual that has been put together, the writers trust, by the Holy Spirit. It is, in it's simplest form, no more nor less than the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We live in a world that is surely in the time of the great apostasy. For this reason many have sought to spend much time and money warning others of false doctrine, but they have failed to see that, that activity is in itself a form of deception.

We were commanded to preach the Gospel to all creation, and to teach them the things that Jesus taught us. (Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:19-20). The Gospel is the only message that can open the way for changed lives. (Rom. 10:13-17; 1 Cor. 1:17-18; 2:1-5).

Many brethren have had the great privilege of experiencing the life changing effects of the manual's contents. In addition to this have gone on themselves to teach others about that blessed thing which they have received. (2 Tim. 2:2).

Today more than ever, and thank God for this, we are seeing a return to the early church lifestyle. People are seeking a greater knowledge **of God**; (not just knowledge **about Him**) they are seeking the realities of loving God more deeply. They are seeking to experience loving one another in a more meaningful way...they are seeking **to be the church**, rather than just **to attend one**. They are seeking to see the real power that the book of Acts speaks about. *To those that desire these things...it shall be given them.*

This manual seeks to help, in whatever way that it can, those precious people, as spoken of above, to attain their desires. Many have already experienced such desires through this Gospel of His great love, and are today effectively ministering the life of Jesus to little groups in houses.

Essentially, the manual is to be used by those who are willing to lead a small group (from ONE other person upwards) and disciple them faithfully, 24 hours a day, EVERY day of the week, until they are able to do the same for others.

There are some 'do's and don'ts; regarding this manual that you should accept, before using it.

Firstly, please **do** copy the manual freely, and as you have not had to pay for receiving it, don't charge others even for your copy work. If you do not have the means for copying, write to us, we'll gladly send you the amount of copies you need...free of charge.

Should you require help as far as teaching others is concerned we will joyfully help you in any way we can, just as the Lord leads.

There are other manuals, which follow on in series to this one. We will gladly send these to you when you are ready for them. The first manual consists of very basic teachings and is designed to take souls from a state of unregeneracy to being born again. Yet it is equally as essential for even those who have been born again to go through these basic teachings.

In conclusion, it is the earnest desire of those who have been used as vessels in putting these manuals together, that those using them would be brought to a greater knowledge of God and love of their neighbour. *It is not their desire to recruit members for a manmade organization.* Please take everything you read directly to God for confirmation and do not quickly reject anything even if it goes against your own biblical interpretation. The material in the manuals has already produced much fruit to the glory of God.

Please address your requests and enquiries to:

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

THE LOCATION AND TIMES

These teachings were designed to be taught anywhere. The material was originally used in a home situation, where people could easily hear what the teacher was saying and preferably a place free of distraction. Never discourage children from being present, but be very firm in your discipline of them or they will distract those wishing to learn. If possible, try to have the meetings in turn, at the homes of those who have children. (Always be very patient and understanding of the distress that children feel when in strange homes).

One of the finest ways of dealing with the above situation, and to make the teachings more fruitful, is to have them **at least** weekly around a bring-and-share meal (after the meal of course).

Parents should put the children to sleep, and this prayerfully, ministering to their needs before beginning the teaching. If the children are too fearful, allow them to lie at the feet of their parents during the teachings, but as we have already said making sure that they are disciplined. It is not important that husbands and wives jointly participate in these teachings together.

THE TEACHER

Anyone who has a desire can teach from this manual. Desire is the greatest single qualification. It has been the experience of the writers that there exists no greater way of learning about God's word than the experience gained from teaching others.

A good method to use in the first few sessions is to have a group sharing, in place of straight teaching. This way the teacher will become familiar with the word before he himself begins to teach.

Those teaching must never lose sight of the fact that *The Holy Spirit* is the only real teacher of God's word. He teaches through a vessel from what information is already in that vessel. In other words, no man will ever teach (life) beyond the level of his own testimony.

THE METHOD

The teacher arranges with those that he is going to work with to be at the appointed place at a specific time. Prior to this time he needs to lift up the session to God in prayer. Do not treat this important action lightly - it will be the make or break of those being disciplined.

Pray according to how God leads you. This could take the form of interceding for the individuals attending the gathering. If the teacher is not a seasoned pray-er then he should take note of the words in the modules on prayer.

Please ask all those that attend to bring their bibles and both something to write with and write on. Transcripts would be obtained by the teacher photocopying the relevant section from the manual. If you do not have this facility write to the address given in the beginning of this manual, requesting copies of the transcripts.

Once all are comfortably seated in a position that will not restrict their hearing, (Please be sensitive to older people who often have hearing difficulties, and are too afraid to mention this fact), begin the meeting by asking someone to open in prayer. If none of the group are able to do so, then the teacher should pray God's blessings upon the meeting.

Begin the teaching, or as the case may be, group sharing. Ask questions, encourage the brethren to ask questions. If the teacher cannot answer the questions then he or she should never be afraid to say so. This is much more preferable than attempting to give vague or uncertain answers.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a complete teaching, and for this reason, questions that are raised in one meeting are usually answered at a later one, by virtue of the teaching alone. So try to avoid lengthy discussions and especially contentious one's. Where scriptures are quoted, call for volunteers to read them. Usually there are one or two of the same people that will always volunteer. After a few weeks, when the group have more confidence, then the teacher should ask those who don't volunteer, to read the scriptures.

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL (cont.)

It is very important to encourage participation as this reduces the incidence of 'fear of man'. (called shyness in the world) In later discipleship (especially teachings on The Holy Spirit) boldness is of paramount importance.

Where real doubt enters the proceedings, stop and ask the group to agree in prayer, asking God to reveal the truth. Then continue in faith believing that God will respond at the best time...and He surely will!

At the end of the session, ask each person to open up their bibles at any Psalm of their choosing and to read at least two lines of this Psalm. Go around the group clockwise with each person reading in turn. Then the teacher should close in prayer, requesting that anyone who wishes to pray for a particular person or situation should do so before he closes.

Each module should take on or about an hour to go through.

These teachings will only be assimilated by revelation and not by man-made methods, no matter how good. Therefore it will soon become evident that the teacher will have to be a man or woman to much prayer.

If you are so lead, contact us and we will pray for you in our intercessory times. We pray even now for whoever may be reading this that God will bless your labours abundantly.

Lastly, take courage, because this work is a work of discipleship and shepherding. The sheep need attention all day every day and as a result this work is a full time commitment. In spite of this many will desert you (as they did Jesus - John 6:66 - numbers are not an accident!) and often what begins as a large and very excited group, soon dwindles to a mere one or two faithful's.

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

1. Prayer 1

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4: 23-24)

Prayer is Talking to God

As new Christians we might be a little unsure as to the real meaning of 'prayer'.

Prayer is nothing more than speaking to God. According to Matt: 7:7-11, the promise is, that if we ask, we'll get what we ask for; if we search for something, particularly when we don't know what we are looking for, we'll find what we are looking for in Him; if we just want to be in God's presence - He'll allow us to be.

Prayer is Finding Out

Let us consider the situation of speaking to our friends on the one hand and total strangers on the other:-

To our friends we either enquire about what is currently happening in their lives, or we ask about their future plans, or we may ask about mutual friends. With total strangers on the other hand, we use a different approach. We usually ask questions, trying to find out all about them and their interests. From that point we strike up conversation on common interests.

What about the case of those who emotionally, 'fall in love'? We spend hours and hours trying to discover all the intimate details concerning each other. Not only this but we say how we love and admire each other.

Now, if you examine the above statements you can extract the following: With those that know, we try to find out more about them and their lives. Those that we don't know, we try to get to know. Where we have emotional feelings for a person we try to discover more intimate knowledge of them and desire to voice our feelings for them. Ever notice how many questions children ask? They are trying to get know about their parents and those around them.

Jesus - Our Teacher

Jesus is the ultimate teacher on prayer. He talks about the principles of the Kingdom of Heaven in Matt 5,6 and 7. It is in that discourse that He teaches about prayer (Matt 6:5-15).

In John 4:23 we see that God seeks true worshippers – true worshippers worship in spirit and truth. Jesus came not only to die for our sins and do away with our sinful nature but also to make a way for us to receive the Holy Spirit who will teach us how to worship and pray in spirit and truth. God is spirit and therefore we need to communicate with Him in spirit – praying things that the spirit shows us to pray. (Jn. 4:24)

Praying in truth does not only mean 'in sincerity' but hearing the very heart of God. We are able to do this because we have Jesus in our hearts, 'the only begotten of the Father full of Grace and Truth' (Jn.1:14).

The Holy Spirit

There are two important things to know about prayer.

Firstly, we need the Holy Spirit in us before we can really pray effectively.

When Jesus left the earth, after completing His work here, He promised to send someone to help us in His (physical) absence. Let's read Acts 1:5, 8. He promises that we will be "baptized with the Holy Spirit". Then He says that the Holy Spirit will give us power to be His witnesses (another way of saying that we will be duplicates of Him) "to the uttermost parts of the earth".

Let's also read John 16:7, 13-15 Jesus says if He does not leave the earth the Holy Spirit will not come to us. God, through Jesus, places the Holy Spirit in us therefore we are now able to communicate with God 'in Spirit' – by HIS spirit.

The second is that even though we may have the Holy Spirit in us, He can only pray with what is already inside of us. In other words, we need to be careful what we read and see daily. Negative news produces negative attitudes. This can inhibit the Holy Spirit in us.

Know God Through Prayer

Prayer is the way God enables us to get to know Him. The way we can come to find out what He wants to do in our lives. The way we tell Him how much we love and admire Him. The way we ask Him both for things that we need and want.

In John 4:22-23 Jesus tells us of two groups of old testament worshipers:- the Samaritans prayed that which they did not understand so they could not seek God to great depth. The Jews prayed having a great knowledge of God but without the spirit. He then proceeds to introduce a new group who will pray and worship in spirit and truth.

Today we still find three groups of worshipers and prayers: ones that pray earnestly but receive little for lack of understanding; those that have more knowledge and receive more but still do not attain the fullness of blessedness because they pray without the Spirit, and those who have entered into a place of praying and worshiping in Spirit and Truth. James 4:3 says we don't receive because we ask 'amiss'.

Alone With Others

There are two principle ways of praying: Alone and with other people. Praying with others is often referred to as 'corporate praying'. Once we become accustomed to praying with others, it is usually easier than praying on our own. We will find that in the first instance, we need to exercise praying alone before we are confident to pray with others. However, in order to be a good support to those we pray with corporately, we need to pray regularly and frequently on our own.

Jesus teaches us that we need a secret place where we can be alone with God (Matt 6:6). A place where we can enter in and "close the door". He can then teach us how to pray. Every teacher needs a classroom. Whilst we need to be in that secret place Jesus explains to the Samaritan women in John 4:21 that praying and worshiping God is not limited to a certain place or time. God is spirit therefore he is not bound by time or space.

Pray Seated at His Feet

In a later teaching we will discuss the different types of prayer and their purposes. For now we need to know that most of us have been taught to pray asking God for things, or appealing to God to help when we are in trouble.

As time goes by and we 'grow up' spiritually, it will be seen that the purpose of prayer is 'waiting' on God (Is.40:31). Not only to wait on God for the answers to our prayers but to seek HIS very heart - to hear from HIM that which is on HIS heart.

The best comparison that can be offered to describe this position is the case of young children, who are at the age where they love to be in the company of their parents with no other purpose than to be with them. You will have noticed that it is at those times that the children are most willing to do anything that their parents ask of them, because they only want to please. When we pray just for the sake of pleasing God, then we are doing that which God desires most of us. Jesus promised that only those who become like little children would really be able to please Him (Matt. 18:3).

Read Your Bible

The way we learn to 'hear' spiritually is, by reading a few chapters in the Old and New Testament of our Bibles each day. In addition to this we hear by listening to other Christians pray and talk.

Can I Pray Too?

We hear other Christians praying and begin to wonder why we can't pray in the same way or if we will ever be able to pray like them. The good news is that we will be able to pray like them. The good news is that we will be able to pray like Jesus, and for that matter...even better than Him!! "Is this possible?" Yes it is. Let's look at what Jesus says in John 14:12.

Pray All Day

Prayer, like salvation, is a free gift given to us because God loves us. In addition to this He gives us the FAITH (belief) to pray. All it requires from us is the first move. Just like the example of the little children learning to talk...they practice all day long...we need to exercise our praying - ALL DAY LONG!

The first rule for being able to pray is that we, not God or someone else, must open our mouths. God will never force anyone's mouth open so they can pray. We are the ones who must make the first move, and the Holy Spirit will do the rest.

Open Your Mouth

Going around clockwise, let's each pray only one sentence. Do this at least three times. Each one must listen to what the others are praying. As you listen, something like an idea will spring to mind (actually the Holy Spirit), pray this when your turn next comes. After three rounds, pause and discuss among you what you have heard God saying - you are in for a wonderful surprise!!

2. Prayer 2

We said in the previous teaching that prayer was no more than, 'speaking to God'. And, like our human conversation; as there are many different ways of speaking to people, so it is that there are many different ways of speaking to God.

Different Way of Talking to God

Our conversations with God could come about in three different ways: Worship; Intercession or Petition. It must also be remembered that there are other branches of these types of prayers and they may be called by different names.

Worshipping God

Worshipping God is telling Him how magnificent He is, how much you love Him and how deserving He is of all the honour, respect and adoration that we can give to Him.
(Ps.99:5)

Always remember that it is not so much the words that we speak to Him that really count, but rather what is actually taking place in our hearts (Matt 15:7-9). So don't worry if you don't seem to have the right words to speak, just speak out that which is in your heart. If there is no real desire in your heart to worship God, don't be anxious just ask Him and He will give it to you.

Now, open your Bibles at 'Psalms' and choose a verse from any chapter that is worshipping God and read it out aloud. Make up a sentence of your own and speak it to God - this is worship to God!

Interceding to God

The next way of speaking to God is intercession. There is no greater intercessor than Jesus. He is alive today and intercedes for us at the right hand of the Father (Heb.7:25; Rom.8:34).

Interceding prayer is speaking to God on behalf of others or situations in your life or the lives of others. It is asking God for help for people or for help in different situations. Let's read John 17:1-26 and Colossians 1:9-12 for examples of intercession for people, and Daniel 9:3-19 for an example of interceding for a circumstance.

We must stop and consider something very significant here. Of single and utmost importance, when we pray for people and circumstances, is to **PRAY THE WILL OF GOD**. (Matt.6:10) Never ever forget this major point. Often we pray what WE consider best which could be complicating the issue rather than helping it.

How will we TELL God what needs to be done for people? God knows everything! For instance, in the case of unsaved relatives and friends, all we can pray is for their salvation - that they may come to know Jesus and Him crucified. You recall in the first teaching we said that the true purpose of prayer, was 'waiting' on God.

Let us learn to be just like children seated at their father's feet waiting to hear from Him. Letting Him speak to our hearts and then we say what He wants us to say.

Go back now, to John 17, briefly look at verses 3-26. Using the words of Jesus as a guideline, pray a prayer to God for someone else. Follow this with another prayer using words of your own.

Petition Prayer

The last way of speaking to God that we are going to discuss in this session is 'petition prayer'. Petition prayer is 'asking' prayer (Phil: 4:6) - something of course that we are all much more familiar with, as far as praying is concerned.

Asking God for things is in some ways much less difficult than worship and intercession. But like intercession, it is very fundamental that we pray God's will. Let's have a look at the scriptures of John 5:19 and 12:49. Here Jesus says that He speaks or acts only that which His Father has commanded Him. We must be the same.

In Summary

- **Rule one is:**
Pray asking for God's will. If you are not certain then pray the prayer of Jesus, "...not as I will but as thou wilt" (Matt. 26:39).
- **Rule two is:**
Have faith in your prayers, to believe that God will grant that which you ask, especially if you don't immediately see the results! (James 1:6-7).
Believing takes the emphasis off of prayer, and puts the emphasis on God Himself.
- **Rule three is:**
Unless the Holy Spirit shows you otherwise, try not to mix these different ways of praying. For example: in the midst of worship, start to pray petition you will immediately draw away from the worship.

Praying the same type of prayer together (corporately) gives us unity and unity means strength.

Lastly, remember what we said in the first teaching from Matt. 7:7-8. His promise is, if we ask we will receive. If we search we will find. If we just want to be with God - He will allow us.

Next, in PRAYER 3, we shall discuss the importance of persevering in prayer.

3. Prayer 3

Matthew 16:18-19

In this sheet we shall deal with a branch of the Intercession family - 'Warfareing in the heavenlies'.

We Must Pray God's Will

Warfareing, like any other type of prayer, can only be prayed if God so wills it. It is never man's place to make this decision. (Matt.6:10)

It is certainly true that God would lead us to a place of warfare in our prayers. (Giving us a strong feeling within - sometimes even having physical symptoms). As we have discussed in previous teachings, this comes as we wait on God in the prayer room - asking to make His desire for prayer known to us. The directive from God to warfare could be in the form of a strong desire to pray away hindrances in the lives of certain people, situations or say in physical locations.

What is Warfaring?

Eph.6:11-12. In the life of every Christian the true battle ground cannot be seen, it takes place in the realm of the unseen. Paul refers to these situations as, "...strongholds...imagination...high things...every thought..., ...principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places...". The battle takes place all around us, right into our very minds, all in an area that cannot be seen with the naked human eye.

Therefore carnal weapons, anything that can be seen, are ineffective. Paul is saying that only spiritual weapons will work.

What are Spiritual Weapons?

In 2 Cor.10:3-5, Paul gives us a clue to this question "...are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down..." bringing our thoughts to Him.

The weapons are "through God". Jesus says in both Matt. 16:19 and Matt. 18:18, "whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall already have been (or first have been) bound in heaven..." (as the Greek tense is translated). In other words, it was bound in heaven before it could be bound on earth. Likewise is the case of the last part of this verse, "...shall already have been loosed in heaven". Please see the Amplified Bible Version.***

Notice Matt. 6:10. "...thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven..."

Therefore, only when something is already bound or loosed in heaven, can it be bound or loosed through us on this earth. The terms 'binding' and 'loosing' were common Jewish legal terms meaning 'forbidden' or 'allowed'.

How do we now when to Bind or to Loose?

John 5:19, 12:49. Jesus says that He neither does or says anything unless he hears the Father speaking or doing. He is not saying that He is robotic, just that He and the Father are one.

The more at one we are with the Father, the quicker and easier we enter into that place of oneness or communion with the Him. What is this oneness with the Father? Well, it's a lifestyle really. It certainly can

never be made into a formula. Hearing God's voice, doing and praying His will is all a matter of living for Him (2 Cor. 5:14-15).

The subject has already been covered in previous teachings, so we will just say that it's a place of desire in your heart and a willingness to surrender your whole life to God. As this attitude and response to God is practised each day, we begin to hear the voice of God directing us.

When we come into a prayer room, and wait upon God, as we frequently join more mature prayers, we begin to hear God's voice and come to know when to pray for binding or loosing.

When we act in our own strength, binding and loosing prayers are in vain and will accomplish nothing. In fact all we have done has been to frustrate God's desire for us to be a prayer partner with Him.

How do we Pray "Binding and Loosing"?

God will give us the wording for each burden to pray that he gives us, but mostly these prayers will be in the form of asking God (2 Cor. 10:4 "...through God") to bind up, loose or rebuke Satan's activity in any particular life, circumstance or place.

Go to Psalms and notice the power of God's rebuke: Psalms 18:15; Psalms 76:6; Psalms 80:16; Psalms 104:7 and Psalms 106:9.

Shortly after promising Peter (all believers) spiritual authority, He rebuked Satan in him (Matt. 16:23). This is why Jesus taught us to pray: "...Deliver us from the evil one..." Matt. 6:13).

How NOT to Pray "Binding and Loosing"

Often whole churches and groups will burst forth into Tongues and begin shouting and rebuking Satan, claiming to either bind or loose his activities. This is unscriptural. In 1 Cor. 14:27 Paul commands, "...let it be by two, or at the most, three, and that by course, and let one interpret... if there be no interpreter let him keep silent in the church..."

Jude 1:9 shows us we have no authority to rebuke Satan. James 4:7-8 tells us to **submit to God** first, then resist the devil and he will flee. We should have no part in deeds of darkness but only expose them (Eph 5:11-13 Amplified Bible).

Where is our Authority?

Many say that the tongue has the power of life and death, and of course the Scripture says this, but this is referring to the fact that the tongue is a channel for words unto sin (death), and words unto faith and righteousness (life).

Therefore the only authority that we have on this earth is "...through God..." (2 Cor. 10:4) and this was evident in the life of Jesus.

The tongue is a carnal instrument, so are the words that come fourth through it. The spirit behind the words is what is not carnal. It is this Spirit which is the authority, both for good and bad, in the unseen world.

How do we Lay Hold of this Authority?

Eph. 6:10-17. Paul tells us that we don't war against that which we can see, but that which is invisible. The way to deal with this situation is to, "...put on the whole armour of God..." (vs. 11,13).

He tells us that this armour (notice that again it is God's armour - not ours), is found in sanctified lives, that are demonstrating and giving out truth, righteousness, the gospel. Lives growing daily in faith and subjecting themselves not to the ways of the world, but having their minds renewed in the word of God and prayer (vs. 14-18). (See also Romans 12:2).

Amplified Bible:

Matthew 16:19

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven. [Isa. 22:22.]

Matthew 18:18

Truly I tell you, whatever you forbid and declare to be improper and unlawful on earth must be what is already forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit and declare proper and lawful on earth must be what is already permitted in heaven.

Modern King James Bible:

2Corinthians 10:3-5

For though walking about in flesh, we do not war according to flesh. 4. For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, 5. pulling down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ;

4. Prayer 4

In the last three teachings on prayer we got some idea as to what prayer was all about. We looked at different ways of praying. We came to see the importance of trying not to mix these ways of praying, unless the Holy Spirit showed us to do so. We also found out how important it was to simply wait for God to lead us as to how we are to pray, not only this, but to open our mouths and pray without trying to plan our prayers beforehand.

What should my Attitude be when I Pray?

In Luke 18:1-17, Jesus explains to us what our attitude should be when we pray. He is saying that it is **persistent prayer inspired by faith and intensity** from a heart that is humble and repentant that receives the kind of response that it requires from the throne of God:-

- It's not that God gets some kind of pleasure at seeing us begging and grovelling before Him day after day, but rather that the **persistence of our prayers** will break down the evil forces that try to prevent the answers to our prayers reaching us (Eph. 6:12; Jas. 5:16; 1Thess.5:17). We will look more closely at the example of Daniel's prayer (Chapter 9) a little later on.
- **Believing (Faith)** puts the emphasis on **God Himself**. It is all about **Him and His faithfulness**. Jesus did not teach us to rely on prayer alone – He taught us to **rely on Him**. Only when we can fully rely on Him can we fully pray believing. We are to believe Him first, and then express that belief in prayer. The faith must be in the heart before the prayer comes out of the mouth. (Luke 18:38-42)
- Both the Tax gatherer and Daniel's prayers were from hearts which were **humble and repentant** longing to understand God's will. (Daniel 9; Luke 18:13-14)

Can we Pray like the Great Men of God?

Let's go to 1Kings 18:41-46. We enter the story at the point where Elijah tells King Ahab that it is going to rain. (after three and a half years of drought). Although he tells Ahab, what he is really doing is prophesying.

He immediately got onto his knees and prayed until what he had prophesied had come to pass.

We must desire to pray in the way of God's men like Elijah and Daniel because these types of prayer produce results. Not only this, but they are within the reach of every believer.

We need however to take note of two very important factors here:-

Both these men prayed in God's will. Elijah heard from God before he prophesied to Ahab that there would be no rain (1 Kings 17:1).

Daniel read about the prophecies of Jeremiah before he began to pray (Dan. 9:2).

Pray in God's Will, Pray Believing

The next important issue is that they both firmly believed that their prayers would be heard by God. This was visible by their behaviour. Elijah went to Ahab and told him what was going to happen, then prayed without moving from his place until his servant reported a cloud.

Daniel never moved from his place for three whole weeks, neither eating, drinking nor bathing!!

Humility and Brokenness is what we also need in Prayer

Back to Luke 18:9-13. Here Jesus describes two attitudes to prayer: Firstly the scribe who is proud of his achievements and legalistic in his manner of praying. Secondly, and very differently, is the attitude of the tax-gatherer. He goes to God with a heart that is looking for mercy.

Can I only pray the Will of God?

Praying in the will of God is really a way of life. In other words people who have utterly surrendered their lives to God, don't have much difficulty praying God's will.

But for those of us still growing to that place, we need firstly to desire to pray in God's will and then ask Him to cause our prayers to be prayed in His will. But we are certainly free to ask God for the things that we want, then ask Him to make it subject to His will (2 Cor. 5:14-15).

Why does God want us to do the Praying?

God's ways are unique to Him and they work in spite of what we do or don't do. He does require us to pray and preach to fulfil His purpose on earth, but even where we are disobedient, He will find others that are willing, so He always accomplishes His will (Romans 10:13-15).

Luke 18:1-8, Jesus gives us some idea as to why God wants us to pray:

In this instance, the judge can be likened to the position God holds over the earth. He is in total charge.

The widow (a symbol of defencelessness and a type of God's deep compassion - the scriptures are full of God's concern for the "widow and orphan") is likened to man who cries out for deliverance from his adversary.

The adversary is Satan who constantly seeks to bind people in slavery to his will.

The widow remained persistent, and it was because of this that the judge agreed to deliver her, "...lest by her continual coming, she wear me out..." (vs. 5). Jesus says that God too will deliver, when His children pray to Him, "...cry to Him day and night..." (vs. 7).

Jesus guarantees, in fact that God will deliver speedily (vs. 8)!

Why Persistence in Prayer?

Why would God insist that we persist in prayer, is He like a judge...waiting to be wearied? Never! God is just and has a very good reason for this. Daniel 9:2-20 shows us how and what Daniel prayed. His prayer was answered the first time he prayed (Dan. 10:12), but the answer took twenty one days to reach him (vs. 14). Why? Because it was hindered by the Prince of Persia (demonic strong-hold over the area - vs. 13).

Daniel fasted and never gave up on his praying. His prayers were persistent and in deep sincerity.

1 John 3:8 Jesus defeated Satan, yet Satan is still the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4). How? By illegal means he has done this. He tempts man to sin and those that do not have the power to overcome (the greater majority of the world), become slaves to him. Therefore he rules!

However, as the saints persist in prayer, many shall be freed from his evil clutches. Heb.10:36 tells us that through perseverance and the will of God, we will receive what He promises us.

Lastly...

This is what Jesus is teaching us:

- When we pray, first look for what GOD wants.
- Ask God to empty us and give His heart.
- Pray according to the will of God.
- BELIEVE that God will not only hear your prayer, but will answer it as well.
- Persist in prayer – don't give up!
- Lastly, when all this has been done, ask God to give you peace about that which you have prayed.

James 5:16

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

5. Who is the Holy Spirit ?

John 3:6-8

The Holy Spirit is a member of the Godly Trinity. First there is God the Father, then Jesus the Son, and the third member is the Holy Spirit (Matt.28:19).

God created the world, and because of Adam & Eve's sin, Jesus came to earth to restore us, the sons of Adam and Eve, from our sinful condition. We know by now that this was necessary because our nature just wants to sin all the time, and anyone who sins, dies (Rom 6:23) and can't get to heaven.

How are we made up?

We are made up of **three main parts** (1 Thes.5:23):

- **Body** – Our physical body
1 Cor.6:19 tells us that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- **Spirit** – This is the spirit of Man (Gen 2:7; Prov.18:14; Prov.20:27; 1Cor.2:11; 2 Tim.4:22)
- **Soul** – This is the place of our will, emotion and intellect (Gal.5:17-21; Ps.23:3; Ps.116:8)

This is easily demonstrated in the diagram following (Fig.1)

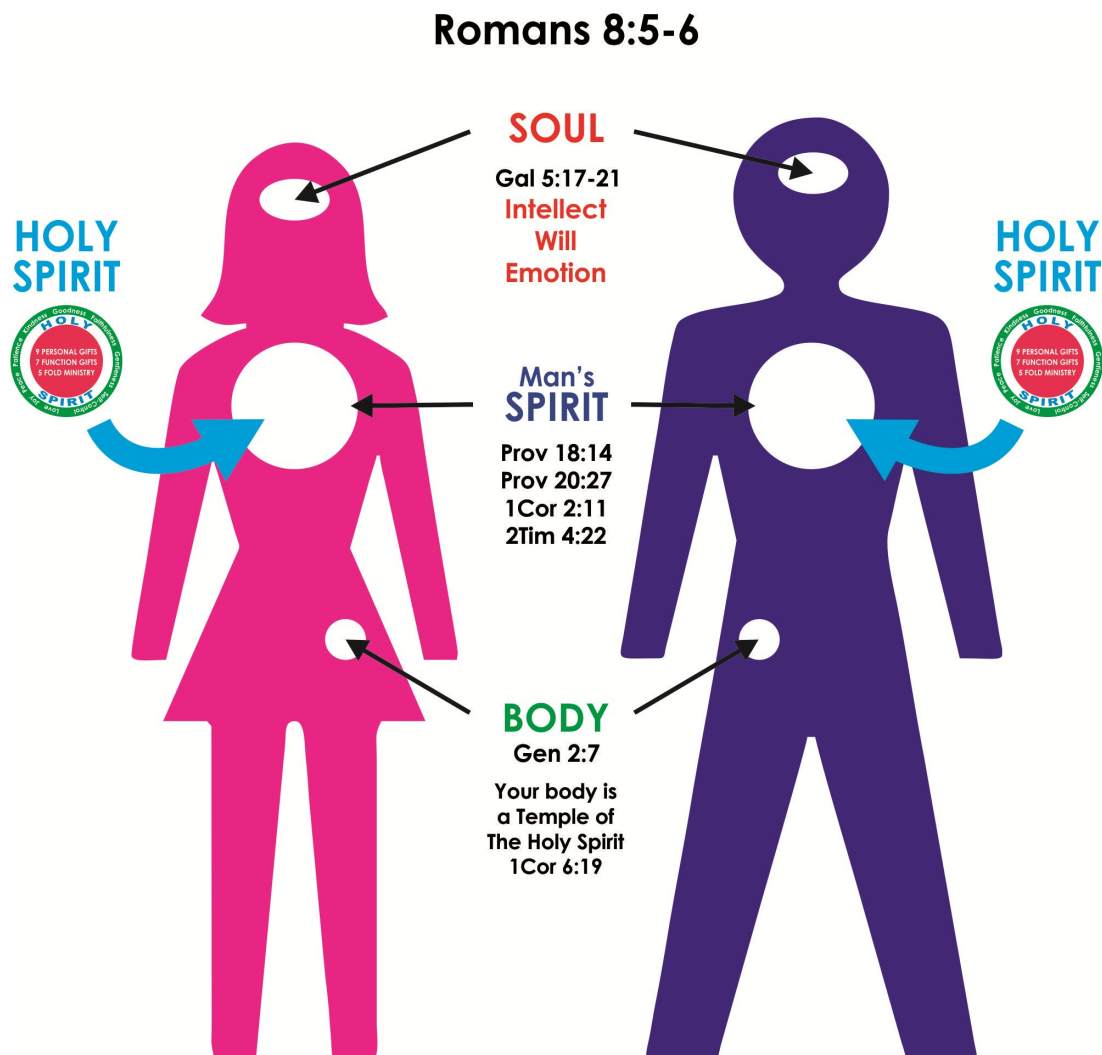


Fig. 1

The Holy Spirit - Our Promise of Help

When Jesus left the earth, after completing His work here, He promised to send someone to help us in His (physical) absence. Let's read Acts 1:5, 8. He promises that we will be "baptized with the Holy Ghost". (KJV for Spirit). Then He says that the Holy Spirit will give us power to be His witnesses (another way of saying that we will be duplicates of Him) "to the uttermost parts of the earth".

John 16:7 says: "But the fact of the matter (Jesus speaking) is that it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the comforter (Holy Spirit) won't come..."

In John 16:26 Jesus says "...in that day you will ask in My name...". What does this mean? He is referring to the day when the Holy Spirit comes to us and makes us one with our Lord.

He convicts us of sin and God's forgiveness

We know that Jesus kept His promise and the Holy Spirit did duly come, at first in the form of tongues of fire upon the heads of the Disciples (Acts 2:1-4). There is also something quite meaningful here; the first evidence of the Holy Spirit's arrival was not only the tongues of the fire on their heads, but the fact that they spoke, "...with other tongues...".

Please bear this in mind as we continue further.

What would be the purpose of Jesus sending the Holy Spirit? The living bible describes the answer in John 16:8: "...and when He comes He will convince the world of its sin, the availability of God's goodness and of deliverance from judgement." (See also Jn.16:13)

Sight is not Enough - We must Enter

As a new Christian, the first thing that the Holy Spirit did for us, was to convince us of our sinful condition and our need for change (Matt.16:17). This is called receiving sight through being 'born again' (John 3:3). But we can't stop here, for sight of a place is only the beginning. Having seen we must now enter (John 3:5).

Entry simply means that we start seeing the holiness of God and we start becoming Holy just like Him. To become holy we have to have a complete reconditioning of our minds.

Let's just recap here:

- ◆ **The Holy Spirit has come to show us our sinful nature and the need to change.**
- ◆ **He shows us the need to be holy as Jesus was holy,**
- ◆ **He begins to help us to be this way.**

How does this Happen?

You may ask, "How does this all physically happen?" Quite simple really. At the point where we begin to see our sinfulness (we have become born again), the Holy Spirit has come to live inside us. Seeing our sinfulness and wanting to be holy are only two of the many things that we now become aware of happening inside, as the Holy Spirit takes up residence in us. (Rom.8:5-17).

The scripture of Gal 5:22-24 tells us that now for the first time we begin to display the 'fruit of the Spirit'. Another way of describing the fruit of the Spirit is what happens to us when the Holy Spirit comes to stay inside us (**Fig.2**).



Fig. 2

He Gives Us Gifts

But this is not all. The Holy Spirit is a gift from God (Acts 2:38). Once He lives in us, He himself will give us gifts (1Cor.12:7). We will speak at length on these gifts in a later teaching. But for the moment we will see ourselves in the position of the early Disciples, who when the Spirit came upon them, 'spoke in other tongues.'

How many Gifts can I have?

Let's recap here again:- *** The Holy Spirit comes to live in us and this is a gift from God.** But when He lives in us **He too gives gifts (1 Cor.12:1).**

How many of these gifts can we have? Quite simply, as many as we desire!! Is there anything that will stop us from using these gifts? Yes, there certainly are at least **three conditions** that will hamper our use of the gifts.

What will Hinder my use of the Gifts?

- Firstly, if we have any **unforgiveness** in our hearts, it needs to be prayed out.
John 20:22-23;
22 Then he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you refuse to forgive them, they are unforgiven."
Eph.4:30-31
30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.
- The next is **being afraid** of making fools of ourselves in front of others (another word for this condition is **pride!**)
Pro 29:25
25 The fear of man bringeth a snare; But whoso putteth his trust in Jehovah shall be safe.
- **Unbelief** will also hinder our use of the gifts.
Hebrews 11:6
6 So, you see, it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that there is a God and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

6. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Introduction

Luke 11:11-13; John 16:7-15

When do I Receive the Holy Spirit?

John 3:3 explains we become "born again" when we receive sight of our sinful nature and the righteous nature of God and then have a desire to change. John 3:5 tells us we enter the kingdom of God when we are "born of water and of the spirit.." This is when we receive the Holy Spirit. **(Fig.1a)**

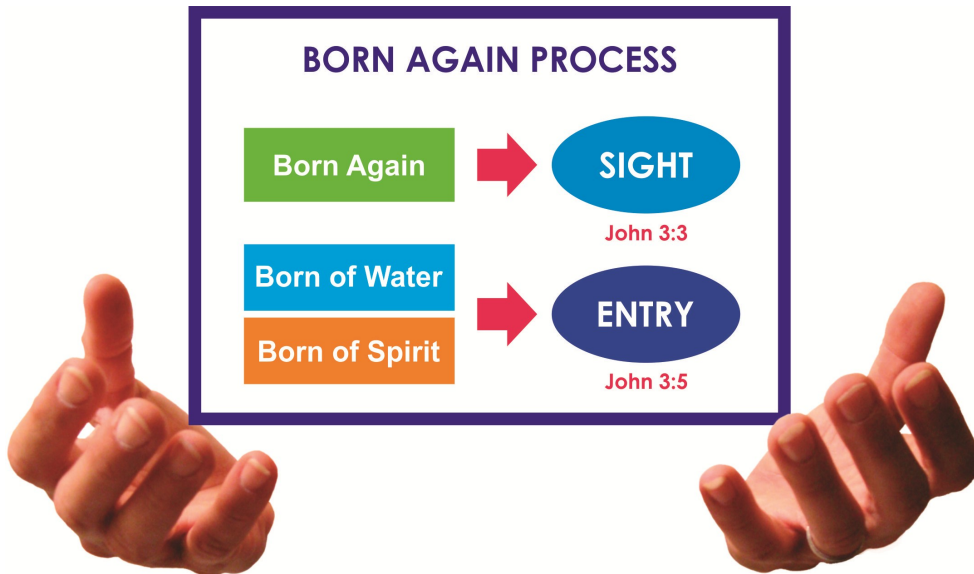


Fig 1a

In 1 Cor 12:13 we read that, "...by one Spirit we are (*potentially*) baptized into one body... and have all been (*potentially*) made to drink into one Spirit..." (*The writers words in italics*). This situation can be compared to Romans 5:18. Each man (*potentially*) has justification, but each man must appropriate this justification by grace through faith (Eph 2:8-9). This is a birth right. **(Fig.2a)**

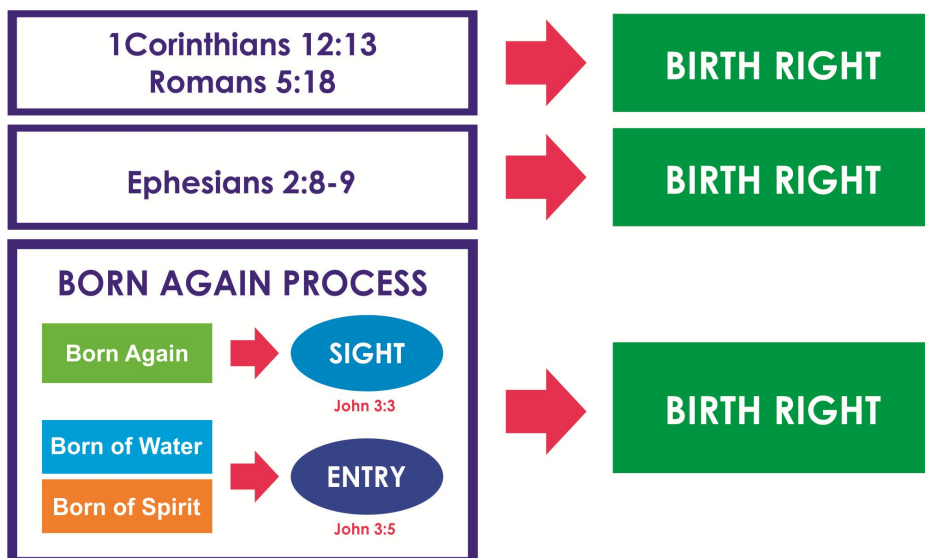


Fig 2a

In the like manner, 'baptism' of the Holy Spirit is the birth right of every believer; potentially awaiting only his appropriation. The throne of England is the birth right of Charles, Prince of Wales. Potentially it is his, awaiting the day when his mother steps down, or dies. **(Fig.3a)**



Fig 3a

Two examples of receiving the Holy Spirit

Acts 8:14-17 explains the situation well. These Sumerian men were believers, baptized in the name of Jesus, but they were without the power of the Holy Spirit. Peter and John laid hands upon them and they appropriated the power of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 10:44-48 the family of Cornelius apprehended their birth right before even receiving the waters of baptism!

These two examples appear to be contradictory

In reality what has taken place is this; when we become born again we receive **sight** of the kingdom of God (John 3:3) and the potential to **enter** the kingdom of God (John 3:5). Often this place is referred to as a 'second experience' but this could be misleading because all it means is that although seeing and entering are one place in God's eyes, they are often experienced by us at different times.

We may have the Spirit deep within our innermost and we do not experience His presence, but when He possesses our very being, we will **definitely** know it !

Two Schools of Thought

There seem to be two principle groups of thought (very broadly speaking):

- A. This group says that they are filled with the Spirit and it was a definite "second experience."
 - This resulted in them being able to exercise many spiritual gifts
 - They believe no person is saved until they have this experience.
- B. This group say that they are filled with the Spirit, and there is no "second experience".
 - However, they believe exercising the gifts was something past, or at least only now partly exercised.

There is some truth in each view, however you and I need the full truth, as truth in part is spoken aptly of in the scriptures (2 Tim 3:5, 7). **(Fig.4a)**

From what we have seen in the scripture, the Spirit indwells us at the time of us being born again (Jn.3:5).

- Whether we immediately appropriate it's power and begin to enter the kingdom of God, (experiencing New Testament power working to one degree or another in our lives) **or**
- we experience the power at even a much later stage - either are completely scriptural.

Either way is acceptable, as long as it results in a life changed for effective service in the body, a life that exudes the love and power of Jesus.



Fig 4a

Why do I need the Holy Spirit?

- He shows us our sin AND sinful Nature—also the need to change.
- Luke 24:49 tells us that Jesus told His disciples they should wait in Jerusalem until they had received "...power from on high". This simply means that they would receive power to help them do the work that they were supposed to be doing (Eph. 4:12). Efficiency in witness, testimony and service for Jesus through His body the church.
- There is a stronger meaning to this as well: Acts 1:8, "...you shall be my witnesses..." 'martus' meaning martyrs.

How does the Holy Spirit prepare me for Service?

We see from the scriptures that once the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, they experienced dramatic change in their characters:-

- They became very bold and unafraid to speak out (Acts 2:6, 14 see also 2 Tim 1:7)
- Their preaching brought results! (Acts 2:37-41; 4:4; 5:14; 6:1,7)
- It brought about the most amazing changes in their lifestyles! (Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-37)
- It caused them to accept martyrdom (Acts 7:55-60).
- They predicted a famine (Acts 11:27-28).
- They became led of the Spirit (Acts 11:27-28).
- They cast out demons (Acts 16:18).

The list of their changed characters is endless.

Why NO change in me?

Why don't I see others today like I read in the book of Acts? The answer to this question is emphatically not, "...it was only for that time..."

We must understand that there **are** people living in this New Testament power. There are people, right in our midst who are experiencing all or some of the above characteristics in their lives.

How do we know we have the Holy Spirit indwelling us?

Eph.1:13-14 (AMP) Has there been change in our lives? Do we hear the 'still small voice' showing us the difference between right and wrong? If 'yes' to the above then we have the Holy spirit within us!

7. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Personal Gifts 1

1 Cor. 12:1-11

Our discussions in the INTRODUCTION were about receiving the Holy Spirit. Also that He, the Holy Spirit, is a gift (singular) from God. This gift means that the Holy Spirit comes to live in us.

Once He begins to live in us, two things happen:

We display (1) the fruit of the Spirit in our lives and (2) the Spirit gives us gifts.

Gal. 5:22-23. The fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

It is so important to remember that the fruit of the Spirit is really the nature and character of God being displayed through us. John 15:4-6 explains this clearly and warns us that without God indwelling us we will not only never please Him, but that the result will be eternal damnation.

1 John 4:8-13,16 confirms this situation in the sense that, "...God is love..." and as a result He is all the other fruit of the Spirit. 1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Cor. 6:16 will again confirm the fact that our very beings are the temple of God and that His Spirit lives in us.

The process of being 'born of the Spirit' now takes place (John 3:5). We start to enter the narrow gate (Matt. 7:13-14). However to pass through this gate and walk along the narrow road, we need to be suitably equipped, the Fruit of the Spirit is only part of this equipment.

The remaining parts of the equipment that we need are the "*gifts of the Holy Spirit*". Notice that this is now 'gifts' (plural) as opposed to 'gift' (singular) of the Holy Spirit himself.

VERY IMPORTANT – These gifts are given to the body of Christ to benefit both believers and unbelievers in order to show the work God does through His children while demonstrating His supernatural power. REMEMBER: The spirit of God (**NOT MAN**) is the Source of the gifts and they are there to equip the body of Christ as well as bring glory to God (**NOT MAN**).

There are **nine personal gifts** and these are divided into **three groups**.

The first group, is the group of the gifts of "tongues and languages" as follows:

1 - Diverse Tongues

Romans 8:26-27. This gift comes to us as a means of the Spirit praying within us, either when we do not know how to pray, or when we just simply have no words to express ourselves. The 'tongue' is strange and at times can even sound like 'gibberish' to us. We do not understand the tongue, neither do others in our midst (neither does the Devil!). **God alone understands this language.**

It is a language that is therefore spoken to **God alone. Never** from God to us, or others (this is prophecy) (1 Cor. 14:2). It is a language that varies in type, not necessarily being the same from person to person or from one day to another (Acts 2:4).

When we pray in this language, we are to ask God for interpretation as to its meaning, so that we, and especially if we are in the company of others, can understand what is being prayed. If we pray in tongues in the company of others, all should pray and wait for interpretation.

2 - Interpretation of Tongues

If anyone speaks in a tongue they must pray for interpretation (1 Cor. 14:13-14;27). As we are released into the gift of tongues, so we must allow that tongue to flow freely when we pray alone before God. As time goes by the tongue will change in sound and become more mature as we are confident of accepting the gift. Even before this stage, we are told to pray to God to give us interpretation that we and others might be edified.

Interpreting, once we have asked for it, is a matter of faith.... namely, opening ones mouth and speaking whatever is coming into one's mind. Like prophecy, all those listening will discern the interpretation in terms of God's word.

3 - Prophecy

In 1 Cor. 14:1 – 33 it would be unwise to suggest that in a few lines all pertaining to prophecy could be fully discussed. In the main, prophecy in our day is for the purpose of edification, exhortation and consolation. On the prompting of the Holy Spirit, we would open our mouths and speak that which comes to us.

Prophecy is a communication from God to man, unlike **tongues which are a communication from man to God** (1 Cor. 14:2-3).

Prophecy will always be in line with the written word of God and is something that we believers must not treat lightly, but rather we should test (with the word of God). (1 Cor.14:29; 1 Thess.5:20 - 21).

Let's Remember....

God gives the Holy Spirit freely to those who ask Him (Luke 11:13). He has offered, we must accept. This arrangement applies to all the above gifts. We need to become like little children to receive these gifts (Matt. 18:1-6). A desire is obviously needed as well (1 Cor. 12:31; 14:1).

Many get the impression that God somehow just forces these gifts upon us, often not using our mouths, tongues, lips, brain, minds hands, feet, etc.! This is a complete misunderstanding. They are rather, freely given to those who are devout to do the will of the Father. The manner in which they are given is: God uses their mouths, lips and other body parts to suit His purpose.

The story of Cornelius and his household in Acts 10 is a beautiful example of this: Firstly, Cornelius was a man whose devotion was expressed by his fear of God, his prayers and alms to the Jewish people (Acts 10:1-2). The result of this situation was that God heard his prayers and saw his works (Acts 10:4). The Holy Spirit gave all who were there gifts and they received them, praying in tongues (Acts 10:44-46).

Let's Practice....

Acts 19:6. *Again, with no more than a few words and the laying on of hands, the disciples of Apollos received the gifts of the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in tongues and prophesy!*

With the language gifts, we must **believe (1)**, **open our mouths and move our tongues (2)**, otherwise absolutely nothing is going to happen!

The purpose of this exercise is to help us overcome the 'fear of man' (shyness) - by practice. The more we practice in front of others, the more confident we will become.

Let's all sit at the feet of Jesus. Next, we must get **rid of any unforgiveness and anger in us (3)**. This we'll do by praying for a few minutes, forgiving others and asking God to give us opportunity for them to forgive us. Always remember something very important here. Forgiveness is a decision not a feeling!

We can ask the Lord to replace any anger in us with peace and joy - by the power of His spirit.

Remember, little children had to learn how to speak. First 'baby' sounds or words and with practice, moving to mature speech.

Next we will all pray out aloud asking for the Holy Spirit to give us His gifts. Now, **boldly** open your mouths and move your tongues....What! Is this gibberish coming out of your mouth? That is what it sounds like to you, but to God, the angels and the rest of us it's the heavenly language....tongues!!!

8. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Personal Gifts 2

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

In our discussions PERSONAL GIFTS 1, we said that there were nine gifts, which could be split into three groups of three; the first three we discussed were the gifts of 'Tongues and Languages'. This consisted of: 1) Diverse tongues, 2) Interpretation and 3) Prophecy.

The next group of gifts are the gifts of 'knowing or revelation'. These are:-

4 - Word of Wisdom (How to)

This gift involves "**quicken, illuminate or impart**" of divine inspiration to see, understand and respond to life situations from God's viewpoint. In other words, receiving divine understanding and insight, thus enabling one to deal with a specific situation or circumstance.

A good example of this gift is found in Matt. 22:17-22 "...But Jesus, perceiving their malice, said, "Why are you testing me?...". (Vs.18). By divine revelation, Jesus knew that they sought to trap him, but this divine revelation showed him how to answer them in a way that would not allow them to trap him. It was also a sign of the Spirit abiding in him.

5 - Word of Knowledge (About)

This is a supernatural revelation of some detail of the knowledge of God. It is God imparted information of facts and details which are humanly impossible to know. It is receiving a quickening or an imparting of a portion of the mind of God, at any one given moment.

A good example of this is Jesus speaking to the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4:16-19. "You have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband, this you have said truly" (Vs.18). Her response was, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet" (Vs.19). In other words, "God, not man, has revealed this thing to you".

The gift would be used to reveal, to the one having it, a vital piece of information that could either help him or others, deal with a certain situation. It could also be used as a testimony of the indwelling Spirit in the life of the one having it, to cause others to turn to the truth (as in the case of Jesus above).

6 - Discerning of Spirits

This gift involves the divine ability to perceive the spiritual source behind a word, motive, attitude, mood or action of an individual or group. Spiritual sources are either: Heavenly, Human or Demonic.

An example of this gift, which operates in the lives of all Spirit-filled believers at various times, is Acts 8:18-24. "But Peter said to him, 'May your silver perish with you...'" (Acts 8:20) Significantly, Peter also had a word of knowledge here as well: "...for I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and bondage of iniquity..." (Acts 8:23).

The last group are gifts of 'Doing or Power'.

7 - Healings

This is the supernatural ability to minister physical healing to those who are sick or infirm. By virtue of the expression of 'gifts of healing' (plural) in 1 Cor. 12:9, the implication could cover all areas of healing, namely: spiritual, emotional, mental and psychological. See Acts 3:6-7;12-13;16.

It must be born in mind that this gift is **firstly to glorify the name of God** (John 9:3;11:4), then for the benefit of the one that has been healed.

8 - Working of Miracles

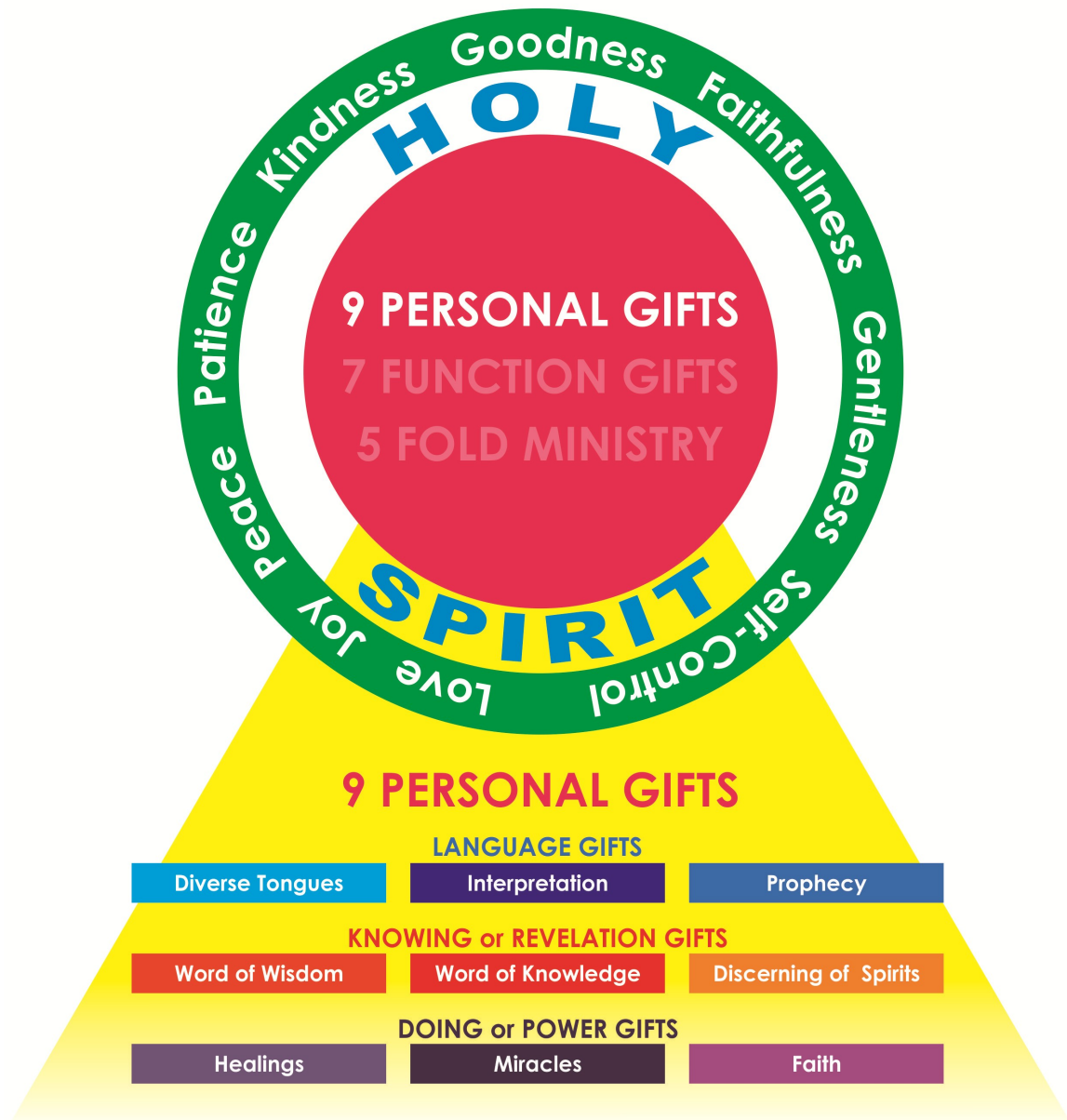
A miracle is a phenomena that is supernatural – an act contrary to the physical laws of nature. Miracles defy reason and transcend natural laws. This gift requires God working through individuals to perform the impossible. See Acts 13:5-12.

9 - Faith

The God given ability to believe Him for the impossible in a situation beyond the normal faith potential. It is the faith to accomplish specific tasks, face potentially overwhelming circumstances, or to persevere in the face of dangerous situations. See Acts 27:21-25.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Personal Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:7-11



9. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Function Gifts (To the Body)

Romans 12:6-8

In our discussions in PERSONAL GIFTS 2, we looked at the remaining gifts of the Spirit to the individual members of the body, in order that they become equipped to enter in and walk along the narrow road.

Ephesians 4:12, Now we shall look at the gifts that the Spirit gives to certain individuals for the purpose of building up and equipping for service, members of the local body (Church). Who are the true 'Body of Christ'? (Jn.3:3-5).

According to Gods plan, it is not sufficient for us to just enter in the narrow gate and walk along the narrow road, but rather through His unit, the Church or His body, we must be about assisting directly or indirectly, in preparing others to do what God wants of them.

John 17:20-23; Eph.4:4. The prayer of Jesus to the Father was that His body would be one, and this as a testimony to the world that He was sent by the Father. Paul says that we were all baptized into one body (1 Cor. 12: 12-14). Therefore, we have a responsibility to others in the body, and cannot just centre on ourselves. To pray for others, (James 5:16) encourage others, (Heb. 13:3) help others materially, James 2:15-16)... the list is endless.

The Spirit adequately prepares us for this function, by giving us specific gifts that we use to minister to others. Apart from gifts such as miracles, which are used not only for the benefit of our own spiritual advancement, but can also be used to build up the spiritual strength of others, there are the **seven Gifts of Function** that are used for the uplifting of the members of the body in both the individual and corporate sense.

1 - The Gift of Prophecy

The prophetic gift of function is more of an abiding, consistent, personal gift, exercised by a few members of the body on a regular basis. This gift is more one that operates in different people from time to time..."just as He wills..." for the edification, exhorting and comforting of the body (1.Cor.12:10-11). This is different to those who are appointed to the office of Prophet (Fivefold ministry) who operate in the gift of Prophecy all the time. (see last module).

2 - The Gift of Service

Acts 6:1-3. This gift involves serving the brethren in a very practical way. Such men are usually deacons and are reliable, willing helpers that experience fulfilment in getting a job done.

3 - The Gift of Teaching

Acts 18:24-25. This gift involves the desire for truth and the willingness to share it with others. It also involves the ability to communicate that which he seeks and finds in the scriptures. This person is usually found teaching in smaller home groups and to the children church. Depending on the degree of the gift, some of those with this gift may well find themselves appointed to the office of teacher (Eph.4:11).

4 - The Gift of Exhortation

Acts 2:40. To exhort is to appeal, entreat, encourage, console, comfort. Exhortation can even involve admonishing or urging someone to follow the right course of action. The scripture commands us to do this for one another (Heb 3:13). This gift enables a person to have a 'spiritual eye' for a need, then to respond with the proper advice, encouragement, warning or advice to others.

5 - The Gift of Giving

Acts 4:36-37. This gift is the ability to generate money or acquire material goods and give generously for the work of Gods kingdom in turn. The gift is manifested by consistent giving and also God's blessing of increase on the one who does the giving.

6 - The Gift of Leadership

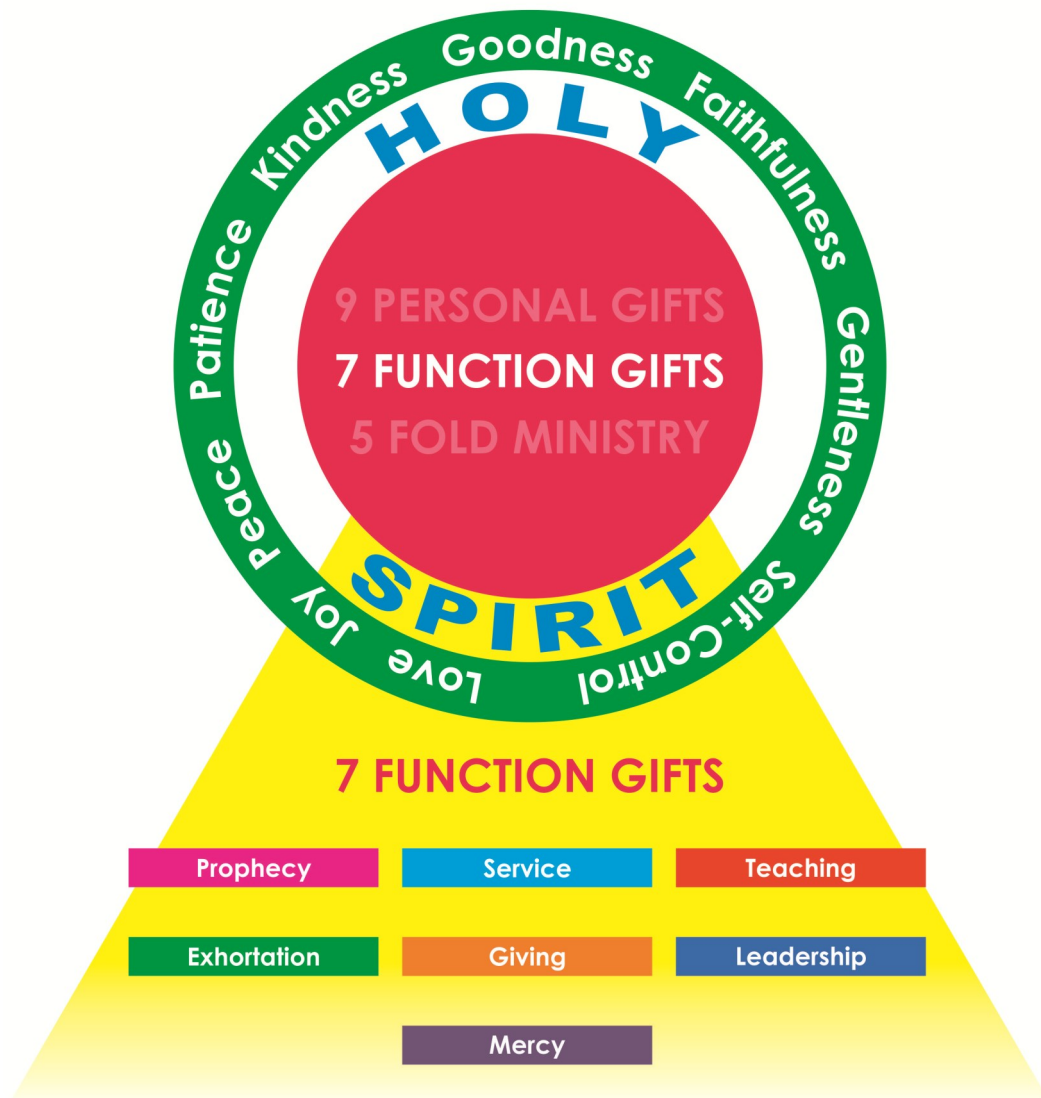
Acts 2:14. This gift provides the ability to lead others into accomplishing Gods purpose for their lives and the life of the body as a whole. They are visionaries in the making and are used to establish different ministry areas by the Lord. Those with this gift are being formed into the appointments of 'administration' or apostle (1 Cor. 12:28). This gift is vital for the growth of the local church and is particularly important for pastoral work.

7 - The Gift of Mercy

Acts 9:36. This gift provides the ability to empathize with those who suffer misfortune or are experiencing some kind of hurt. The gift leads them to perform acts of kindness, help and comfort towards those in need. God is the source of all mercy, (Ps.103:8) and requires His children to be merciful (Luke 6:36).

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Function Gifts

Romans 12:6-8



10. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit - 5 Fold Ministry (To the Body)

Ephesians 4:11-16

In our last session, we discussed the 'Gifts of Function'. In other words, those gifts given to various individuals, on a consistent basis, for the sole purpose of building up the body of Christ.

In this session we will look at the 'Five-Fold Ministry', a gift of the Holy Spirit to the church as a whole, for the specific purpose of equipping the saints for the work of service and the building up of the Body.

Jesus - The Head of the Body

An important issue to note right at the onset, is the fact that Jesus alone is the head of His Body, the church (Eph.5:23). Who are the true 'Body of Christ'? (Jn.3:3-5).

Therefore Jesus alone can form a structure. The structure of denominations are man-made and do not originate from Jesus. **Does this mean that folk within denominations are not of Jesus? Absolutely not!** It simply means that God's people are bound into a traditional man made system according to their measure of faith.

The structure that Jesus forms, and this only once men have found a relationship with Him and therefore through this relationship unity with one another is the local church. The local church is limited by geographical boundary. It's ONLY headship is Jesus (not a man-made hierarchy) and it's earthly authority are it's Elders, also appointed by geographical boundary; this authority does not ever extend beyond a city limit (Titus 1:5).

Similarly, the Five-Fold Ministry authority does not extend beyond the boundaries of each local church and is in submission to its local Elders. Members of the Five-Fold Ministry might well be Elders as well as occupying a Five-fold appointment. The Five-Fold appointments are however, not authority figures by virtue of their appointment.

As the name suggests there are **five appointments, Jesus' gift to the Church.** (Eph.4: 7-11).

1 - The Apostle

The ministry of Apostle has continued throughout the Church age, but this appointment must be seen as separate from the original twelve Apostles appointed by Jesus (Gal.1:1). They were used to lay the foundation of the original church. The meaning of Apostle is 'sent one'.

The function of Apostle since that time was the establishment of local churches, and the encouraging, edifying and correcting of those already established. Appointing elders, and often instrumental in the appointments in the Five-Fold ministry, Apostles are pioneers and visionaries. They generally operate in all of the five-fold appointments. They are men who are spiritual and self-sacrificing and their ministries are witnessed by fruit and signs. They persevere and do not easily give up on that which God has set them.

According to the new testament, the Apostle lives by faith and NEVER receives a salary from any local church (Acts18:1-4). He may certainly receive gifts from the church, but not a salary (1 Cor.9:18; 2 Cor.11:7-9; Phil.4:15).

He may be appointed an elder in the church that sent him out, but he cannot occupy that position in any of the churches that God founds through him.

2 - The Prophet

This appointment calls for one who has a prophetic gift which incorporates words of Knowledge as wisdom. It must be an abiding gift operating all the time. They speak forth the word of God in a predictive, directive and corrective manner (Acts 21:7-11). Those in this office must be beyond reproach and steeped in the word of God.

In the church age the prophet prophesies on finished revelation of which we are commanded not to ignore and also to test (1 Cor.14:29).

3 - The Evangelist

The evangelist preaches the Good News of Jesus Christ. He is one who has a heart for the lost and leads them to make a commitment for Jesus. Quite often his ministry is accompanied by signs and wonders. Part of the evangelist's function is also to equip the saints for the work of evangelism.

4 - The Pastor

Another name for this appointment is "Shepard". His function is to tend and care for the flock. The nature of his work calls for a broad knowledge of ministry. Often this position calls for the pastor to be a teacher as well, because he is required to 'feed' the flock with proper teaching from the word of God. His character must also be above reproach. Like the evangelist he is charged with raising up others in the flock to do similar work.

5 - The Teacher

This post is responsible for much of the foundation and growth of the local church. Foundational from the point of view of sound doctrine being firmly established among the flock. Also, the local church can only remain healthy if they remain on the path of sound doctrine. He also has need to inspire the flock to seek God and search His word for truth. His lifestyle should be his biggest teaching aid.

Let us pray together..... 1Cor.14:26

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit - 5 Fold Ministry

Ephesians 4:11



11. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Prophecy

1 Corinthians 14:1

The Importance of the Gift of Prophecy

Paul says that we ought to desire spiritual gifts, but more especially the gift of prophecy.

Why should we “earnestly desire spiritual gifts”, but this gift in particular? Because he explains that the gift is used by God to, “edify, exhort and console” the body. (Vs.3)

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul explains that gifted men are given to the church for the purpose of bringing new Christians into a place of effective service - a place where they can uplift others to a victorious walk in Christ (Eph. 4:11-13), In the same manner, those who have personal gifts (1Cor.12:7-11), or corporate gifts (Rom. 12:6-8) must use them with the same objective in mind.

Are the Gifts for all of Us?

Many say that gifts are only for certain ‘chosen’ people. This is a misunderstanding as the scripture says, “...dividing severally to every man as He (The Spirit) wills.” (1 Cor. 12:11) Clearly one of the deciding factors would be, “...earnestly desiring...” on the part of those receiving the gifts (1 Cor. 14:1; Luke 11:13).

Notice as well, that Paul, in 1 Cor. 14:5, wishes that “...all...” spoke in tongues (see also Vs. 23 & 24). So one can clearly see that gifts are for all who desire them! However, prophecy is by far the superior gift. “...Greater is he that prophesy ...” (Vs.5). This is because prophecy will edify the body (Vs. 3-5, 12, 25-26).

Receiving the Gifts of Prophecy

We have all seen from the teachings on the Holy Spirit, that we receive the Holy Spirit at the time when we are born again. He is the one that gives us sight. We have also discovered from the teachings that the Spirit, when He resides in us, will manifest His fruit through us, and also offer us gifts. **We manifest the gifts as we are willing and desiring to receive them.** In other words we accept and exercise them by believing that we have them (by faith). The language gifts (prophecy is one of the three), are the same, except in each case we need to ‘speak’ in order to receive them (Acts 2:4). To receive the gift of prophecy then, we simply open our mouths and begin speaking, believing that God will give us the words.

Many fear to take this step is faith, saying that it will be them speaking and not God. The result of this fear is that they never prophesy, and as a consequence the body is not edified as God would want.

How can we be certain it's God speaking and not us?

How can we be sure, that if we do open our mouths and speak by faith, that which issues forth will be from God and not ourselves? Paul answers this by saying that two or three should prophesy and the rest should judge (1 Cor. 14:29). Judge what? Judge if that which has been spoken from your mouth is from God or not!

What happens if it is not from God? We do not get discouraged, but keep trying. Paul says in chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians that now, on this earth, we prophecy part in the flesh (of ourselves) and part in the Spirit (of God). However, we are told never to reject prophetic utterances, but rather to test them (1 Thess. 5:20-21). Each of us is to adopt this attitude then: As the Spirit prompts you, open your mouth, do not think of what you are going to say, just speak—believing that God will place the words upon your lips. Those around you will decide if it is of God or not. If it is from God, then those around you will be blessed, if not, take heart and pray asking God for another opportunity.

