



**Sunday May 11, 2014**  
**Power To Witness and The Gifts of the Spirit**  
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We have been spending time the last two months, learning about the person and work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God is here to work in us and through us as believers. The more we open our hearts and lives to who He is and His work, the more we will experience of Him.

Today we look at the work of the Holy Spirit through us as believers. The Holy Spirit empowers us to be witnesses and releases what we call "the gifts of the Spirit" as we serve God and people.

When the Lord Jesus was here on this earth, He commissioned first 12 disciples, and then 70 others to go and do the very same things He was doing.

**Luke 9:1,2**

**1 Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.**

**2 He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.**

**Luke 10:1,9**

**1 After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.**

**9 And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'**

The way they were to bear witness to Jesus and the Kingdom of God, was by works of power-healing the sick, casting out devils and destroying demonic works.

After His death and resurrection, before Jesus ascended, He promised His disciples:

**Acts 1:8**

**8 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."**

This promise of the Holy Spirit coming upon us, enduing us with power to be witnesses is for us today.

In his sermon on the day of Pentecost, Peter reminded the people of Joel's prophecy and then pointed out that this promise is for as many as the Lord our God will call.

**Acts 2:17,18,38,39**



**17 'AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, SAYS GOD, THAT I WILL POUR OUT OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH; YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS.**

**18 AND ON MY MENSERVANTS AND ON MY MAIDSERVANTS I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT IN THOSE DAYS; AND THEY SHALL PROPHECY.**

**38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

**39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."**

Now think about this, in Acts 1:8 : "...the Holy Spirit has come upon you..."

God Himself, comes upon us, "clothes" us with Himself. We need to be aware of being "clothed" with the Spirit of God.

In doing so, He empowers us to be witnesses for Jesus Christ.

As believers, we receive this empowering, when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit. [NOTE: At APC we do the Holy Spirit baptism service on the first Sunday of every alternate month. So if you have not yet received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you can get one of our leaders to pray with you at anytime or you can attend any one of these services].

The Lord Jesus desires for us to manifest the power of the Holy Spirit, and thus be witnesses to Him.

To be a witness, means we act as signposts. We point people to Jesus and testify to who He is.

This is how the Early Church did it. Time and time again we read about the power of the Holy Spirit in demonstration.

Here are just a few Scriptures that highlight the power being demonstrated in the Early Church:

**Acts 2:43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.**

**Acts 4:33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.**

**Acts 5:12-16**



**12 And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.**

**13 Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly.**

**14 And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, 15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.**

**16 Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.**

**Acts 5:32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."**

Notice, what the verse says: "..we are His witnesses...and so also is the Holy Spirit.."

**Acts 6:8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.**

It was not just the apostles alone - but every day believers, like Stephen, who did great signs and wonder.

First, we wish to emphasize the fact that we are to be witnesses to Jesus Christ by demonstrating the power of God through signs, wonders, miracles and healings.

Somewhere along the way, the Church has lost sight of this and has resorted to all other kinds, methods and ways of trying to win the lost. We need to get back to what the Lord Jesus gave to the Church - the Holy Spirit who empowers us to be witnesses.

***We need to regain this lost glory and press in for greater glory to be manifested in the Church and through each of us as believers.***

Second, *The Holy Spirit empowers us to be witnesses for Jesus. Therefore His power is most available when you witness for Jesus.*

How are we going to see more of the signs, wonders and miracles? We need to start doing what the Lord originally told us to do - be His witnesses.

If we just sit around amongst ourselves, cloistered together, we are missing the purpose of the Holy Spirit coming upon us. Yes, there are times when we need to be together - for prayer, worship, fellowship, equipping, encouraging. But the purpose of being together is so that we can be strengthened to go out and be witnesses.



Let's be bold about this. Let's start bearing witness to the Lord Jesus Christ, at every opportunity. Then, as we start doing this, we can expect the power of the Holy Spirit to be displayed in signs, wonders and miracles.

Now, we will shift focus a little, and talk a little about the "gifts of the Spirit".

While we are not going to do an in-depth study on each gift of the Spirit we want to encourage all of us to desire and manifest the gifts.

In 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 the apostle Paul mentions these

**1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

**1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:**

**2 You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.**

**3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.**

**4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.**

**5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.**

**6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.**

**7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:**

**8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,**

**9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,**

**10 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.**

**11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.**

All of these are supernatural gifts. These are not learned, acquired through natural processes.

They are "manifestations of the Spirit" or expressions of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

The gifts belong to the Holy Spirit, but are expressed through us as believers.

**1 Corinthians 12:31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.**

**1 Corinthians 14:1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.**

We are to earnestly desire the gifts of the Spirit.

All believers can have all nine of these gifts operate through them, at different times, in different situations.



It happens as the Holy Spirit wills, but we must desire. When we do our part of desiring, the Holy Spirit will do His part of "willing" or releasing these gifts. If we do not do our part of desiring, then we are never really going to have much happening.

The gifts of the Spirit are channels through which with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit are released - and hence these gifts are perfect tool to bear witness to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Since the Holy Spirit is upon us, where ever we go, the gifts of the Spirit can operate anywhere at any time. So we need to get away from the mindset that assumes the gifts operate only during a church service, although a church service is a good place to expect the gifts.

We've done this several times before, but for the benefit of those who may be new to this, lets just a quick overview of each gift. As we do this, think about some practical situations where you can desire these gifts to touch other peoples lives and point them to Jesus.

#### Word of Wisdom

It is a piece of divine wisdom that is supernaturally imparted to a believer that reveals the mind, purpose and will of God

- to solve a problem,
- to know what course of action to take,
- to know what is coming up in the future,
- to release creative, artistic, scientific, intelligent expression of a concept or idea.

The gift of the word of wisdom is different from acquired wisdom that comes through experience and learning.

#### Word of Knowledge

It is a supernatural impartation of a piece of divine knowledge that reveals facts of things past or present.

#### Discerning of spirits

The ability to supernaturally see either into the spirits of people or into the spirit realm

- to discern the spirits of people
- to discern the source of influence on people
- to see what the Lord is doing
- to see what satan is scheming and doing



The discerning of spirits is different from spiritual discernment which is an acquired spiritual ability.

#### Prophecy

Prophecy is simply God speaking to man through man. It is simply a message from God which a person receives and communicates.

#### Diversities of Tongues

Ability to speak in languages of men or angels, primarily used as a prayer language. Has other uses as well.

#### The Interpretation of Tongues

Supernaturally interpreting a message given in tongues into the language known by the people.

#### Working of miracles

Supernatural intervention into the natural course of nature, events, human ability, resulting in what can only be described as a miracle.

Miraculous supply; Creative healings; Overriding nature; Supernatural happenings  
The end result of the miracle is to meet the needs of people, turn the lost to the Lord and glorify God.

#### Gifts of Healings

Double plural “gifts”, “healings”. Supernatural work of God resulting in the physical or emotional healing of a sick person.

#### Gift of Faith

Supernatural impartation of faith into the heart of a believer to trust God for a miracle in a particular situation or a moment of time.

The gift of faith is different from the faith that a person has developed in God through their personal walk with God over time (Romans 12:3, 2 Thessalonians 1:3).



**USEFUL RESOURCES**



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>