



Sunday October 01, 2017
Gifts of the Spirit (Part-2) : How The Holy Spirit Initiates The Gifts

Review

The Corinthian Church Gatherings

It is quite interesting to assess the spiritual life of the Corinthian church as we see in Paul's epistles. While they had obvious problems that we have highlighted earlier, despite their flaws, they were experiencing a lot in terms of the work of the Spirit. Here are some highlights:

- ✓ Paul states that they were "*enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge*" (1 Corinthians 1:5) implying that they had the utterance gifts (tongues, interpretation of tongues and prophecy) and revelation gifts (word of knowledge, word of wisdom, discerning of spirits) in abundant operation.
- ✓ Paul states "*you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (1 Corinthians 1:7), which means they had the gifts of the Spirit operating freely amongst them.
- ✓ Paul states that the power of the Lord was present in their meetings (1 Corinthians 5:5) implying they had demonstrations of God's power whenever they came together.
- ✓ The Corinthians were "*zealous for spiritual gifts*" (1 Corinthians 14:12). Imagine a local congregation where everyone was passionate about the gifts of the Spirit!
- ✓ Paul recognizes that they were very eager to speak in tongues, and had to let them know that "*I speak with tongues more than you all*" (1 Corinthians 14:18).
- ✓ When they gathered together every one came with something to serve and give through their spiritual gifts. Paul stated: "*Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.*" (1 Corinthians 14:26). Imagine such a church gathering where people came waiting for an opportunity to bless someone else!

Wouldn't it be great if we as a local church could become like the Corinthian church in terms of their zeal for the supernatural and spiritual gifts? Let's do so.

Understanding The Gifts Of The Spirit

For instructional purposes, the nine gifts of the Spirit are commonly classified into three groupings:



GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT		
REVELATION GIFTS (Gifts that reveal something)	VOCAL GIFTS (Gifts that say something)	POWER GIFTS (Gifts that do something)
Word of knowledge Word of wisdom Discerning of spirits	Tongues Interpretation of tongues Prophecy	Faith Gifts of healings Workings of miracles

A quick overview of the gifts of the Spirit:

1. The gifts of the Spirit are given to all believers.

The manifestations of the Spirit are given to "each one" (1 Corinthians 12:7). The Holy Spirit distributes His gifts to "each one" (1 Corinthians 12:11). All believers are to walk the more excellent way of love and desire the best gifts (1 Corinthians 12:31). All believers are to pursue love, desire spiritual gifts and especially to prophesy (1 Corinthians 14:1). All believers are encouraged to desire earnestly to prophesy, and not to be stopped from speaking with tongues (1 Corinthians 14:39).

2. The gifts of the Spirit are a supernatural "manifestation" of the Spirit.

An operation of the gift of the Spirit is the Holy Spirit expressing Himself, making His presence and power visible.

3. The gifts of the Spirit are gifts of grace.

As we have already mentioned, these are 'charisma', given by grace, to each believer. We therefore do not earn these gifts. All we do is to make ourselves ready and work with the Holy Spirit to manifest these gifts.

4. The gifts of the Spirit are given to edify people and glorify Christ.

The right motive that we must always maintain in desiring and manifesting the gifts of the Spirit is to serve people and to glorify Christ. The gifts of the Spirit are not to make us look good or for any self-promotion. We must not seek to operate in the gifts out of competition with each other.

5. The gifts of the Spirit are manifested as we walk in love, desire the gifts, and step out in faith.



6. Every believer can manifest all of the nine gifts of the Spirit.

Believers are told to covet the best gifts and also to desire spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:31, 14:1). Obviously there are no restrictions here – implying that a believer can desire for any of the nine gifts of the Spirit listed.

“For to one is given...” (1 Corinthians 12:8) must be understood as with respect to a particular instant in time, and not in terms of ability to manifest the gifts. 1 Corinthians 12, 13 and 14 all flow together in thought. In a particular meeting when they are gathered together (1 Corinthians 14:26), different gifts are distributed by the Spirit, to different people. In a subsequent meeting the distribution may be different, that is, one who had words of knowledge in one meeting, may manifest gifts of healings in another.

7. The "best gifts" are the gifts needed for the occasion to meet specific needs that are present and glorify Jesus.

We are to desire the best gifts. The “best gift” is the gift that is best suited for the situation.

8. Because spiritual things can be taught, believers can be taught and trained in the release of the gifts of the Spirit.

The more you exercise and flow in certain gifts the easier it becomes to have more of those manifestations of the Spirit.

In general, we see the following concerning spiritual gifts, in Scripture:

Gifts need to be stirred up, otherwise, they diminish in their expression through neglect or fear (1 Timothy 4:14, 2 Timothy 1:6,7).

Gifts can be imparted, in the sense of being stirred up, activated or enhanced as we associate, receive from, relate and work with others who are further along in the exercise of those spiritual gifts and manifestations (Romans 1:11).

9. Often, several gifts can flow in conjunction with one another to accomplish a specific work that God wants done.

Therefore do not become too rigid about the classification/categorization of spiritual gifts.



We'd like to refer to these as "gift packs", where multiple gifts flow together. For example, word of knowledge and gifts of healings often flow together, revealing a specific condition God is healing, along with the healing that happens.

10. Gifts empower membership gifts and ministry gifts.

The nine gifts of the Spirit make up the believers "Toolbox". Regardless of what your membership gifts, role and function are, you need the gifts of the Spirit. Similarly, if you are in ministry gifts function, you still need the gifts of the Spirit to serve people effectively.

11. The gifts of the Spirit are no indication of spiritual maturity

As we see in the Corinthian church, they were very open to the work of the Spirit and have much of the manifestations of the Spirit. Yet the apostle Paul calls them spiritual babies in Christ (1 Corinthians 1:4-7; 1 Corinthians 3:1).

There is a difference between **spiritual sensitivity** and **spiritual maturity**. We can be spiritual **sensitivity** and keen to the things of the Spirit. We are keen and responsive to the moving of the Holy Spirit and to manifest His gifts. This makes us zealous, passionate and full of faith, about the supernatural. Spiritual maturity has to do with our character, growth in spiritual understanding and growing in Christ-likeness. We need to develop in both.

However, the danger is that a believer could be very spiritual sensitive and yet be very spiritually immature. That is why we need each other to help one another grow in both areas.

12. The gifts of the Spirit can be manifested anywhere, at any time.

The gifts of the Spirit can be manifested through the believer anywhere and at any time. So we must remain desiring for the gifts at all times, ready to work with the Spirit of God. The gifts of the Spirit in everyday life, in your home, in your school/college/workplace, and where ever you are ministering to people Our goal in this teaching is to get believers trained and released to flow in the gifts of the Spirit, anytime, anywhere.

13. Corporate (collective) expectation and desire can increase the manifestation of the Gifts of the Spirit.



As we stated earlier the Corinthian church were a group of people who were very zealous of spiritual gifts and came with much excitement to bless one another with the gifts of the Spirit. And that is what they experienced.

How The Holy Spirit Initiates The Release Of The Gifts

We now cover some practical insights on how we actually hear from the Holy Spirit. We have found the following approach simple and easy to help people learn how to receive what God is speaking to them. (For detailed explanation and Scripture references please see the free APC Publication: Understanding The Prophetic, chapter 9)

Our Spiritual Senses

Spirit, soul, body

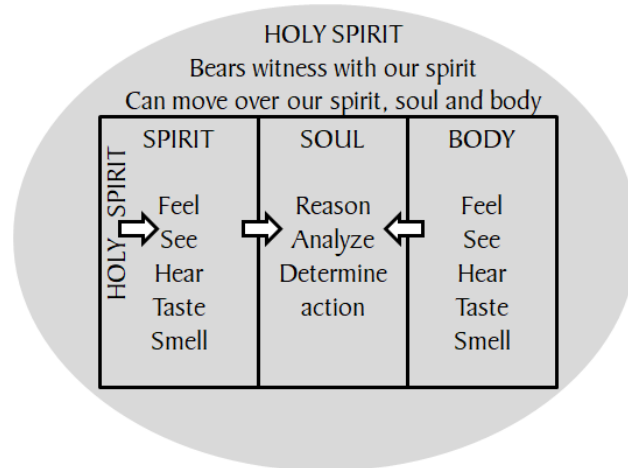
We understand that each of us is a spirit, having a soul and dwelling in a body. Paul makes this clear when he writes, *“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Spirit To spirit

The main area in which the Spirit of God relates to us is in our spirits. *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirits that we are children of God”* (Romans 8:16). Communication from God normally takes place Spirit to spirit.

Five spirit senses

It is quite clear from Scripture that the spirit has senses, similar to the physical senses of the human body.



The spirit sense of feeling

Our spirits can feel similar to the physical sense of touch/feeling. We can have feelings of joy, quietness and peace in our spirits. We can feel restlessness, uneasiness, a stirring or motivation to action, a feeling of tightness or discomfort, bitterness or anger, weighty feeling and so on. These feelings can come and go as a flash or can continue for a period of time in our spirits. With each feeling, there is actually a message that the Holy Spirit is communicating to us.

Here are some examples in Scripture:

- ✓ Peace (Colossians 3:15) : A feeling of peace indicates all is well.
- ✓ Stirred or provoked (Acts 17:16,17) : A stirring in your spirit is a call to action, to do something about the situation.
- ✓ Compelled (Acts 18:5) : A feeling of being compelled is usually a call to action, to do something about the situation.
- ✓ Bound (Acts 20:22,23) : A feeling of tightness or uneasiness is a warning not to go or do something and that some danger is near.
- ✓ Restlessness (2 Corinthians 2:13) : a moving to action, to do something.
- ✓ Bitterness, heat (Ezekiel 3:14) : A feeling of anger is usually again a call to action.
- ✓ Spirit fell upon me (Ezekiel 11:5) : A weighty feeling is usually an indication of His presence over you, the anointing coming over you and so on.

We must develop the ability to recognize these feelings in our spirits and then understand what the Holy Spirit is testifying or telling us through that feeling. Paul, for instance, felt “bound in the spirit,” meaning he felt very restrained, had a tight feeling inside him. But he understood the message that the Holy Spirit was telling him that there was going to be trouble up ahead in Jerusalem.



The spirit sense of seeing

Very often we will get pictures and images that come up in our spirits and over into our minds. These are really messages from the Holy Spirit. Since a picture is worth a thousand words, they are a great form of communication. The pictures we see are essentially a basic form of spiritual visions. Sometime we see pictures as in a movie, which is a sequence of pictures where things are happening. We can also see pictures when in a trance, or when we are asleep through dreams or visions of the night. There are times when it seems like our spirit-eyes are seeing something in the spirit realm — what is happening inside the spirit of another person or what is happening in the spirit world. And then there is something that could happen, but is rather rare, which is to have an out-of-body experience where our spirits travels on a sight-seeing tour.

Pictures (Jeremiah 1:11–14, Amos 8:1,2)

Dreams (Job 33:14–17)

Visions (Daniel 8:1–3, Daniel 10:4–9)

Trance (Acts 10:9–17)

Seeing in the spirit realm (Numbers 22:31, 2 Kings 6:15–17, Isaiah 6:1–8)

Out-of-body (Ezekiel 37:1,2, Ezekiel 43:5,6, 2 Corinthians 12:1–4)

The spirit sense of hearing

When we ‘hear’ in the spirit, we normally do not hear sound but rather receive the word, words, sentences or paragraph that is supernaturally imparted to the spirit-man. Sometimes it can come as a flash of information, suddenly coming into our spirits. Sometimes what we ‘hear’ just comes as a supernatural understanding where we just know. There has been an impartation of a whole lot of information and it is in our spirits.

The word comes into our spirits through an inner knowing, inner witness, an inner voice and sometimes (although very rarely) an actual audible voice, as in the case of Samuel hearing the voice of God. Only the intended audience is able to hear the audible voice of God, and those standing alongside normally do not hear it.

The spirit senses of taste and smell

We know that the spirit-man is capable of taste and smell as well. The Bible tells us, “*Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good ...*” (Psalm 34:8). Ezekiel describes his spiritual experience of eating a scroll and tasting it. “*So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll. And He said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach*



with this scroll that I give you." So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness" (Ezekiel 3:2,3). This was indeed a spiritual experience where he could taste something in the spirit. See also Revelation 10:8-10.

Many times God manifests His presence through smell. Just like taste, this smell is "in the spirit". You recognize a specific aroma and God uses that aroma to indicate to you what He is desiring to do, or what He wants you to do. Others around you may not smell this, because this is God using your spirit sense of smell to communicate to you. See some Scriptures that use aroma or fragrance as descriptors of what our actions are like before God (Psalm 141:2; 2 Corinthians 2:14-16; Ephesians 5:2; Philippians 4:18; Revelation 5:8; Revelation 8:3-4).

God will cause you to recognize a particular taste/smell and then give you specific understanding on what He is communicating. **Pleasant tastes/smells** can be used to indicate God's pleasure in what we are doing, God is present, God's anointing is at work, God is moving to bring healing, God moving to bring comfort, God is moving to meet a certain kind of need, etc. **Unpleasant tastes/smells** can be a warning to indicate to you to be careful of what is happening (e.g. a false doctrine being preached, a false prophet deceiving the people, demonic power, seducing spirits, unclean spirits at work, etc.), for you to get out of the situation (e.g. leave now, you don't need to be here, do not interact with these people, etc.).

Training Our Spiritual Senses

We have described above the faculties of the spirit-man which is very similar to the five senses we have. We must keep in mind that these five spirit-senses do not work in isolation of each other. They are not compartmentalized. Very often when God communicates, there will be things you feel, hear and see. All these channels will receive pieces of communication and you need to combine them and then present them or act on them.

The other important aspect to know is that our spirit-senses need to be trained to pick up what God is communicating through those channels. The more we learn to listen and receive from God, the more sensitive we will become and the easier it will be to pick up what God is saying.

Once we pick things up in our spirits, we then usually process this in our soul (mind, will, emotions) to validate that this is indeed from the Lord and then what to do with it, when, how and so on. So we must also train our minds to process what we receive through the spirit. We must have a mind renewed with the Word of God and the whole counsel of God to accurately process what we are picking up in the spirit. This training



manual is a tool to help us train our spirits and minds to hear from God and process what we are hearing.

Manifesting Through The Believer And Moving In His Sovereign Will

The gifts of the Spirit can be manifested as the Spirit moves through believers. And there are times when the Holy Spirit moves in a sovereign way, completely independent of the believer. We must remain open and desiring for all the ways in which the Spirit moves and works amongst us.



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday October 01, 2017
Gifts of the Spirit (Part-2) : How The Spirit Initiates The Gifts

There is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *1 Corinthians 12:1-11*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group study.

(A) Discuss how we can have expressions of "the Corinthian Church Gatherings" in terms of their zeal and exercise of spiritual gifts in our Life Groups (small groups)?

(B) We covered several statements about the gifts of the Spirit. Discuss any one of these statements (one that really 'stands out' for you).

- 1. The gifts of the Spirit are given to all believers.*
- 2. The gifts of the Spirit are a supernatural "manifestation" of the Spirit.*
- 3. The gifts of the Spirit are gifts of grace.*
- 4. The gifts of the Spirit are given to edify people and glorify Christ.*
- 5. The gifts of the Spirit are manifested as we walk in love, desire the gifts, and step out in faith.*



6. Every believer can manifest all of the nine gifts of the Spirit.
7. The "best gifts" are the gifts needed for the occasion to meet specific needs that are present and glorify Jesus.
8. Because spiritual things can be taught, believers can be taught and trained in the release of the gifts of the Spirit.
9. Often, several gifts can flow in conjunction with one another to accomplish a specific work that God wants done.
10. Gifts empower membership gifts and ministry gifts.
11. The gifts of the Spirit are no indication of spiritual maturity.
12. The gifts of the Spirit can be manifested anywhere, at any time.
13. Corporate (collective) expectation and desire can increase the manifestation of the Gifts of the Spirit.

(C) Discuss how the Holy Spirit moves upon our five spirit senses to initiate the release of the gifts of the Spirit? How can you become spiritually sensitive (keen, responsive) to the moving of the Holy Spirit upon your spirit senses?

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two main learning today and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Within the group, feel free to share areas of emotional healing that may be needed. (Keep all matters confidential). Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

Close by thanking God together.



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>