



**Sunday November 12, 2017**  
**Gifts of the Spirit (Part-7) : Proper Foundation for Releasing the Gifts**

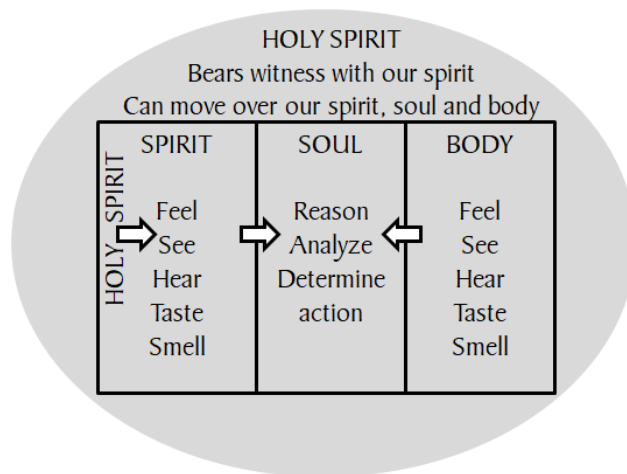
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
 Hebrews 2:1-4

**Review**

Please review a few key points from earlier messages in this series Part 1-6.

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

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



**TODAY : PROPER FOUNDATION FOR RELEASING THE GIFTS**

As we seek to pursue more and more of the manifestations of the Spirit, we must also be watchful to maintain a string foundation from which we operate. In this chapter we present guidance on several important areas we need to maintain, as we move in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Many of these have been distilled out of what has been observed



from the lives of men and women greatly used by God in the present as well as in church history. We can learn from their successes and even from the mistakes they made. Let's take these to heart.

## **#1, Operate out of relationship with the Lord, and not based on methods or techniques**

John 15:4-5

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

While it is good to be taught and trained in how the gifts of the Spirit operate, remember everything in the Kingdom is based on personal relationship with the King.

Be established and continually growing in your personal relationship and intimacy with the Lord. Operate out of relationship not out of methods and function.

## **#2, Be established in your identity in God**

Do not live by the gifts. The gifts of the Spirit do not define or describe you. These are only tools we use to serve people.

Don't base your identity in the gifts or functions you move in. Always live out of your personal walk with God and based on the written word of God.

If you must have spiritual manifestations to feel that God loves you, that God is near you, etc., then you are basing your identity in the gifts. This is wrong. You are who God says you are in His written Word.

If you must have other people hear about your gifts to make you feel good, then you are basing your identity on your gift. This is a sign of insecurity.

People who are struggling with rejection-issues, usually look for affirmation in response to operating in the gifts of the Spirit. The right thing to do is to get healed from rejection, and learn to function out of a place of wholeness and security in God.



Understand the difference between value and function. Your value in God is not based on the gifts operating through you. The gifts of the Spirit expressed through you only to help you in your function, and do not define your value.

### **#3, Demonstrate Christ-like character**

**Ephesians 4:15**

**but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—**

Serve gifts with fruit. Walking in the Spirit ensures that our lives bear the fruit of the Spirit. When we walk in the Spirit, bearing the fruit of the Spirit, and along the way, manifest the gifts of the Spirit we are able to minister in a way people are able to readily receive through our lives.

Your life of Christ-like character builds trust with people. The more trust you have among the people, the greater liberty and faith you can exercise to flow in the gifts.

Follow Jesus. Reveal Jesus as you flow in the gifts of the Spirit.

Guard your heart and your motives. Let it always be to glorify Christ. Get self out of the way. It is not about you! It is about God and about the people. Do not use spiritual gifts to promote yourself. Stay away from cheap publicity, self-promotion, jealousy or competition. Love must be your main motivation.

Don't play on people's emotions. Avoid hype, sensationalism, whipping up emotions, making false claims and false promises. Avoid exaggerations. Avoid making statements to boost one's own super-spirituality (John 7:18).

Understand the higher value of wisdom over revelation, because without wisdom, revelation can be misused.

### **#4, Maintain accurate doctrine. Be open to correction. Stay Teachable.**

**1 Timothy 4:16**

**Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.**

**Hebrews 13:9**

**Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.**



Embracing strange and various doctrine is like eating 'bad food' that does not benefit you and could even harm you.

Stay with the core and essential doctrine of the Word of God and with teaching that helps you in maturing towards Christ-likeness (Hebrews 6:1-2). This keeps you safe for the long run.

Follow Jesus' example. He moved with compassion, preached and taught the Word, healed the sick, cast out devils and worked miracles. He has commissioned us to do the same in order to demonstrate God's compassion, win souls and make disciples. So in all spiritual manifestations, we need to see Jesus glorified, people brought to saving faith, established as disciples and experience God's compassion towards them. Hence pursue healings, deliverance and miracles that meet peoples needs.

Growing in your personal study of God's Word and being established in sound doctrine, helps you test what you are receiving (e.g. revelatory gifts) and keeps you from promoting error. Watch out for some common errors:

*Delusions of grandeur and megalomania* : being deceived into thinking that one has become so powerful, so important, etc. We've seen in church history, people like John Alexander Dowie, proclaimed themselves to be Elijah the prophet, and so on.

*Savior mentality* : as though you will be the one God will use to touch everyone, you have all the answers, and without you people cannot survive.

*Doctrinal deviations* : validate everything you teach and preach with the whole counsel of God. Just because God uses you in powerful manifestations does not mean you can preach or teach anything that come to your mind. William Branham even though was greatly used by God went into error in his preaching and teaching of the Word.

*New Age teaching* : Don't mix Biblical truth with New Age, Eastern mysticism and other non-Biblical spiritual teachings.

Remember, the supernatural is not always spectacular. Don't miss the supernatural while looking for the spectacular (1 Kings 19:9-14).

Be teachable, be open to correction.

#### **Psalm 141:5**

**Let the righteous strike me; It shall be a kindness. And let him rebuke me; It shall be as excellent oil; Let my head not refuse it. For still my prayer is against the deeds of the wicked.**

Psalm 141 is a psalm of David. We see David's heart to receiving correction from the righteous. David referred to this as 'excellent oil'. It is something that will bless and enrich his life.



## #5, Develop self-restraint

### Galatians 5:22-23

**22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.**

Self restraint is the ability to be self-governing, to keep ourselves under the leading of the Holy Spirit and not move out on emotional or fleshly impulse. For example, you may need to hold a prophetic message until it is the right time to release it.

Don't become presumptuous in your desire to manifest the gifts. If God is leading you to do something, do it. Otherwise, temper your zeal and allow wisdom to rule. For example: If God is speaking, prophesy. Otherwise exercise self-restraint and keep quiet.

## #6, Grow within a good local church community

We are part of a body, a family, an army. God has made us and designed us in such a way that we are dependent on others. So stay well connected and in good healthy relationships in a good local church.

No local church is perfect. But keep in mind, that God uses the imperfections in those around us to perfect the imperfections He sees in us.

### Isaiah 65:8

**Thus says the LORD: "As the new wine is found in the cluster, And one says, 'Do not destroy it, For a blessing is in it,' So will I do for My servants' sake, That I may not destroy them all.**

New wine is found in the cluster - not in an isolated grape. Grow in an environment where the gifts of the Spirit are nurtured, where people are lovingly corrected and guided to mature in the things of the Spirit and are given freedom to release the manifestations of the Spirit.

Stay planted. Don't keep floating around. The Holy Spirit is portrayed as wind and water – the believer is a living stone. The Holy Spirit “moves”, the believer is to be “planted”, “rooted”, “established”.

Walk in right relationship with those who are your leaders.

### Hebrews 13:17

**Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.**



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Sunday November 12, 2017**  
**Gifts of the Spirit (Part-7) : Proper Foundation for Releasing the Gifts**

This 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](http://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 passage: *1 Corinthians 14:1-40*

**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 discussion.

*We mentioned several guidelines that serve as a proper foundation from which we pursue the manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit:*

*#1, Operate out of relationship with the Lord, and not based on methods or techniques*

*#2, Be established in your identity in God*

*#3, Demonstrate Christ-like character*

*#4, Maintain accurate doctrine. Be open to correction. Stay Teachable.*

*#5, Develop self-restraint*

*#6, Grow within a good local church community*

*Discuss each, specifically understanding why each are important as we pursue the gifts of the Spirit in manifestation.*



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.