

**DISCIPLESHIP 3
GOD'S PLAN
SERIES**

**UNIT III - LESSON 5, 6
THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT
THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT**

for

**CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
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UNIT III - SPIRITUAL MATURITY**LESSON 5 - GOD'S WAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY - GILGAL -
THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**

In this lesson as we continue the topic "**LIVING ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN**" **WE** want to talk about **THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** from 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 31.

Concerning the "Gifts of the Spirit" we see from 1 Corinthians 12, verse 7 that these gifts are the manifestation/evidence of the presence of the Holy Spirit. **THEY ARE A DEMONSTRATION OF HIS POWER THROUGH THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

THESE GIFTS ARE:

- supernatural in nature - 1 Corinthians 12:6
- under the operation of the Holy Spirit - 1 Corinthians 12:11a
- given according to the discretion of the Holy Spirit -1 Corinthians 12:11b
- we are to seek (covet earnestly) best gifts. The gifts which best suit the area of ministry you are in. 1 Cor. 12:31
- all of the gifts need to be in operation in local church. These gifts are tool given to the church by God for the building of the church. 1 Corinthians 12:7

Let us now look at the operation of each of these nine gifts.

1. WORD OF WISDOM

- "the utterance of wisdom - the power to speak wisely"
Keep in mind that this is speaking not from natural wisdom which comes from experience or book learning, **BUT RATHER** this is **SUPERNATURAL WISDOM WHICH CAN COME ONLY FROM GOD.** James 1:5
- an utterance, words of wisdom given by Holy Spirit
- given to the believer (Matthew 16:15-17).
- a spiritual illumination for the common good
- promised by Jesus (Luke 21:14-15)

EXAMPLES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Stephen (Acts 6:10)
- Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 2:4-8)

We need the operation of the gift in our church. How can we understand the mysteries or secrets of God without the wisdom of God? We need to covet earnestly the best gifts. We need to pray for this utterance of wisdom, not for self interests or our own profit, BUT for the building up of our church.

2. THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

- knowledge of things which are unfamiliar, unknown, and beyond you; not acquired knowledge (through books, study);
- knowledge
 - a. of God and things of God (Acts 4:1-14 [13]; Matthew 16:16,17, John 7:15).
 - b. about people (John 4:16-18).

Warning: Knowledge without wisdom can cause great damage in the Body. We need to use knowledge wisely. When used with wisdom the utterance of knowledge is a tremendous tool for the building of the local church.

3. FAITH

This is not DOCTRINAL FAITH, but a MIRACULOUS FAITH.: It is faith that allows you access to God's abundant grace in Jesus Christ.

- Faith that lets you believe without doubt for that which is absolutely unbelievable.
- Faith that can remove all obstacles and stumbling blocks.
- A receiving and commanding faith (Mark 11:23-24)
- Faith that challenges the host of darkness and wins in the name of Jesus.
- Faith that works miracles of healing, casts out demons and pulls down the strongholds of Satan.
- Not a passive, but an active faith. Faith that is creative in power (Mark 11:23).
- It is the faith of God (Mark 11:22, Galatians 2:20)

4. GIFTS OF HEALING

Jesus is the Great Healer (Jehovah Rapha). He desires a well body (local church). For this reason He has established within the body three ministries (covenants) for divine healing (NOT healing by medicine BUT healing by divine power).

1. Mark 16:17-18 - for all believers

2. James 5:14 - for the Elders in local body

3. 1 Corinthians 12:9 - special anointing of the Holy Spirit on those whom He has chosen.

- Whereas the healing covenant to be exercised by all believers as well as the healing covenant given specifically to the Elders is primarily for the healing of the

SICK, these gifts of healing spoken of in 1 Corinthians 12:9 are for miracle healings (blind to see, the lame to walk, casting out demons) and are always instant healings. They are an extraordinary demonstration of the super supernatural power of God. They are SIGN miracles.

- only gift mentioned in plural

5. WORKING OF MIRACLES

Miracles come in many and varied kinds BUT the one thing common to all of them is that it is an occurrence that could ONLY be accomplished by the supernatural power of Almighty God.

- the feeding of the five thousand and four thousand
- the raising of the dead
- Peter walking on water
- coin from the mouth of a fish
- stilling of the storm

6. PROPHECY

There is the office of the Prophet, one of the five gifts of Christ to the Church (Ephesians 4:11) and there is the gift of prophecy. *All prophets have the gift of prophecy, BUT all who have the gift of prophecy are not prophets.*

1 Corinthians 14:3 shows that the purpose of prophecy is:

- for edification (building up)
- for exhortation (encouragement)
- for comfort (consolation)
- According to 1 Corinthians 14
- verse 22, prophecy ministers to the believer
- verses 24,25, prophecy convicts of secret sin "the hidden things of the heart."
- verses 29-33, prophecy has its place in the assembly
- verse 39, gift of prophecy to be coveted

7. DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

This is not a discernment of the message given but, rather a discerning of the spirit behind the message or person.

There are three spirits which can be operating

- man's spirit (spirit or attitude of the soul)

- evil spirit (seducing spirits, lying spirits etc.) (1 Timothy 4:1)
 - a. fallen angels
 - b. demons (disembodied spirits)
- the Spirit of God

1 John 4:1 says for us to try the spirits.

Examples: John 4:19; Acts 5:1-10

8. & 9. DIVERS KINDS OF TONGUES: THE INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

Speaking with other tongues as the Holy Spirit gives utterance is the **UNIQUE SPIRITUAL** gift identified with the Church of Jesus Christ. Before Pentecost all the other gifts were in evidences. On the Day of Pentecost "they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4).

The use of tongues in the setting of the local church was ordained by God.

1 Corinthians 12:28

1 Corinthians 14:21 (Italics of KJV not in Greek)

- Joel 2:28-29 (Cf. Acts 2:16-21)

1 Corinthians 14 gives two primary purposes of the gift of tongues.

1. verse 6 - for revelation, knowledge, prophecy, doctrine
2. verse 22 - sign to the unbelievers

Let me once again make a distinction between "speaking with new tongues" as referred to in Mark 16:17 and the "divers kinds of tongues", with interpretation in 1 Corinthians 12:10.

- Mark 16:17 speaks of new tongues for all believers, whereas, 1 Corinthians 12:10 is speaking of tongues as a special anointing of the Holy Spirit for a specific purpose at a specific time and is not for all believers, but for whomsoever the Holy Spirit chooses to use.
- The speaking with new tongues of Mark 16:17 according to 1 Corinthians 14:2 is **SPEAKING TO GOD** - praying in the Spirit (I Corinthians 14:14,15, Jude 20) and has the purpose of self-edification.
- Whereas speaking in tongues with interpretation (1 Corinthians 12:10) is **GOD SPEAKING TO MAN**, to the Church in prophecy, words of wisdom, words of knowledge, revelation, doctrine etc. (1 Corinthians 14:6). Thus it is God speaking to us in the language of the Spirit for our instruction and edification of the body.

For this reason there must be an **INTERPRETATION**. Otherwise there would be no understanding and thus no edification for the Church (1 Corinthians 14:6).

We would also note, it is an interpretation and not a translation. Interpretation is an explanation of what was said, whereas a translation is simply word for word in another language.

These gifts of the Spirit are given when the Holy Spirit discerns a need for them. Then He moves through those that are filled with the Holy Spirit, being led and directed by Him.

When these gifts are being exercised by the Holy Spirit, they are a demonstration of His power and evidence of His presence and are signs to the unbeliever and for the edification of the believer.

LESSON 6 - GOD'S WAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY - GILGAL - THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

This lesson, **THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT**, concludes the series on **GILGAL - "Be filled with the Spirit."**

The fruits of the Spirit are those good fruits that will be evident and demonstrated in the life of the believer when he is "walking in the Spirit." Therefore the lack of them in the believer's life is an indicator that he is not walking in the Spirit. Amen?

We would note that the fruits of the Spirit can not be worked up, nor do we need to seek them. That which we need to do is nurture and cultivate them. Their expression in our lives is the evidence of our relationship with God. The evidence and proof of the reality of Christ in us, and our abiding in Him (John 15:4).

Galatians 5:22,23 lists the fruit of the Spirit which we are to nurture and cultivate.

1. **LOVE** - agape love, selfless, self sacrificing love.

The "fruit of the Spirit **IS** love, joy, peace..." Notice it is singular: IS, not ARE. This indicates that love is the fruit, and from it stems all other fruits. Love is primary. Agape love finds its expression as described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

Paul says that without love we "...become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal" (1 Corinthians 13:1).

Now 1 Corinthians 13 is in the context of the GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT. Here we see that the gifts of the Spirit are not to be exercised except by the fruit of the Spirit, which is love. Love is all-important. Love never seeks its own (1 Corinthians 13:5). Love is always doing something for others. Gifts of the Spirit are always to be exercised in (under the covering of) and for the Church.

2. **JOY** is a fruit of the Spirit that the Lord Jesus wants you to have in your life. He came that we might have joy. 1 John 1:4 says, "And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. These things were written that we who are the children of God through faith in Jesus Christ might really enjoy life. Are you enjoying life? Joy is a fruit of the Spirit.

3. **PEACE** - the peace of God. Religion can never give you this peace of God. This peace, deep down peace, only comes from Jesus. "...being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

4. **LONGSUFFERING** - that is, patient and long tempered?

5. **GENTLENESS** which means kindness, tenderheartedness.

6. **GOODNESS** which means being kind but firm.

7. **FAITH** - here has meaning of faithfulness.

8. **MEEKNESS** - meekness is not mildness and it is not weakness. Meekness means that you will do God's will, that you are willing to yield your will to the will of God.

9. **TEMPERANCE** - which is self-control. It is having the self under control and not self in control.

END of Series

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