

# the Gifts and Fruit

Of the Holy Spirit

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A Match Made in Heaven

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The Pulpit Ministry of Christ E Free Church  
November 2015 & December 2016

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Jesus Christ  
Our Highest Calling  
Our Greatest Purpose  
Our Soul's Source and Joy  
And Our All-Consuming Passion

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## Introduction

In our culture today, it seems faddish or fashionable in the church, to identify and discover our Spiritual gifts. Sometimes it seems to be more of an issue of curiosity, rather than in interest and intent to serve Jesus Christ better.

How did the early church figure all this out? What procedures did the early believers use to identify their spiritual gifts, or did they do anything?

The focus of this booklet is not to condemn those who promote spiritual gift surveys. But it is an attempt to research what holy Scripture says about it and consider the value of learning from that.

I recently took an online survey from our medical provider. After finishing the survey, they presented the results to us in categories. It indicated that my blood pressure was borderline too HIGH. The concerning issue is that I have always had relatively low blood pressure, sometimes so low, that I was cautioned about giving blood at the local blood drive.

Even when I filled out the blood pressure information on the survey, it indicated I was borderline on the LOW end.

In the early 90's I took a church planter's survey to see if I had what it takes to be a church planter. This was intended to determine if we had the right stuff, risk takers, go getters, etc.

And the end we were given the results and told that I failed the test. I was not enough of a risk taker<sup>1</sup>, and that the most unlikely thing I would ever do, would be to fly an airplane<sup>2</sup>. In reality, I had taught and led and <sup>1</sup>mountain rescue unit for several years, and along with that, I had my airplane<sup>2</sup> pilot's license for several years.

Unsurprisingly, the bottom line is; I put little stock in the things man tries to understand; especially the work of the Holy Spirit, and the call of God upon a person's life. Please consider this Biblical perspective and approach to the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit.

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# “The Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit”

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-- A Match Made in Heaven --

**Text:** Rom.12; 1Cor.12; Eph.4; Gal.5

Nov. 8, 2015

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change”. --James 1:17 ESV

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Above all the grace and the gifts that Christ gives to his beloved is that of overcoming self.

-- Francis of Assisi

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## INTRODUCTION

This morning we begin a new series on the Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit. This is “*A Match Made in Heaven!*” I say that because we will be looking at both the Gifts and the Fruit of the Holy Spirit together, because I believe that is how Scripture presents them and how God intends us to understand them and to exercise them.

In the book of James, faith in Christ is presented alongside believer’s good works. Works and Faith are two separate and individual items, yet they are intended to be married together and inseparably linked.

Likewise, as we look at the Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit, while they are separate and different items, yet I believe they are intended to be married together and inseparably linked.

Spiritual Gifts are not the same as personality traits, or talents, abilities and natural inclinations we are often born with. Spiritual gifts, can complement or supplement personality traits and natural abilities and talents. Gifts seem to be given in areas that we are lacking. So if your personality is not specifically one of leadership qualities, then a Spiritual Gift of Leadership may supplement that lack of natural leadership quality. If you are a person who has never naturally been a generous person, then the spiritual gift of Giving or even Faith may be given to supplement that which is lacking for the ministry in which God desires and plans to use you.

Probably most of us, through our own personal experience or from something we heard from the news, can remember some great preacher who had some great gift and seemingly prosperous ministry, only to be taken down by some character problem or sin, or lack of spiritual fruit.

Hopefully, by the end of this series, we will better understand the importance of the Gifts and the Fruit working together, as well as the important part each of us play in the life and health of the body of Christ.

*I'd like to begin this morning by addressing...*

## **THE ISSUE AND THE NEED FOR BALANCE**

\* Often in the lives of some ministers, the work of the Spirit in their ministry, was not as evident in their character. For some, their success in ministry, excused some significant areas of character flaws and sin in their personal lives. So Spiritual Gifts, affect our ministry, while Spiritual Fruit affects our character. Gifts and Fruit work together. Ministry and Character are both to be governed by the Holy Spirit. We will attempt to learn how the Holy Spirit desires to change us, demonstrate His holiness and empower His ministry through us.

Scripture teaches that a balance is needed in our Christian lives, specifically in the areas of the Gifts of the Spirit and the Fruit of the Spirit.

*The Issue of Being Biblically balanced may mean..*

### **A Change from the Traditional**

\* Just because someone has always told you – “this is the way it is”, doesn’t mean, that is the way it really is. Even in the church, it is not unusual for things to get passed on, that are not Truth, or even based in Scripture.

#### My Personal Testimony from a cessationist church to a charismatic church

I was raised in a southern church and received Christ there. This was a church we might describe as a “cessationist” church or one which held to the belief that the “miraculous” or sign gifts of the Holy Spirit had ceased not long after the end of the New Testament.

I spent nearly 27 years in that cessationist church. During that time, Christian lessons were passed on to me that, as I later discovered, were not quite accurate according to Scripture. After that, I became connected with a mildly “charismatic” church family and learned from them and from Scripture more accurately, specifically about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Then I learned from the “charismatic” group that all the gifts were for today. So from there and even in Bible College, things were taught or passed on to me, that I accepted, but never really were confirmed in Scripture. I soon learned that some of the things the charismatic church passed on to me, were also not necessarily confirmed in Scripture.

So for the past 30 plus years or so I have been attempting to balance the Truth of God’s Holy Word in my life, because **INO LONGER WANT TO BE GUILTY OF PASSING ON “BIBLICAL” TEACHING THAT ARE NOT CONFIRMED IN HOLY SCRIPTURE.**

In Acts 17 Paul and Silas find themselves in the midst of a riot.

**Act 17:10-11** ESV The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. (11) Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

[cp.2Tim.2:15]

For Instance:

- 1) I have always heard that you get all your Spiritual Gifts at conversion, but that is not necessarily the case from Scripture.
- 2) I have always been told that once you receive a spiritual gift, it is with you for life. But again, that is not specifically taught in scripture.
- 3) I believe my conservative Brothers and Sisters who teach that certain gifts have ceased are wrong. Scripture doesn't teach that.
- 4) I also believe our Charismatic Pentecostal brothers and sisters who teach that you have to speak in tongues as a sign that you are saved or filled with the Spirit, are equally in error. ***I no longer, want to pass on any of those things.***

*The Issue of Being Biblically balanced also means...*

### **A Charge for the Biblical Correctness**

\* In John 14:26, Jesus says: "The Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things." The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth![Jn.14:17; 15:26; 16:13]

As a Church family, I'd like to ask that we resolve together, to do 2 things:

- 1) I ask that we resolve, not necessarily to discard what we know about the Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit, but that we will evaluate all that we know, and all that we have been told about the Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit, by the clear teaching of the Word of God. What Scripture does not tell us, we will not impose on our study or our beliefs. What Scripture does tell us, we will incorporate into our beliefs concerning the Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit of God.



2) I also ask that we resolve to remain unified as a body of Christ. I find it nothing short of devilish, that the very things God intends to unify the body of Christ and build up the Church, which is the workings of the Holy Spirit, is often what the devil has historically used to tear down the church and bring strife, discord and disunity between brothers and sisters in Christ. I ask that according to...

**Ephesians 4: 2-3**, we resolve “with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, to be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

*This is the Issue and the Need for Balance.*

*I'd like to also briefly address...*

## **THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS: THEIR SOURCE & PURPOSE** (1Cor.12

\* The Spiritual Gifts are both intriguing as well as controversial. It seems that many are interested in discovering their Spiritual Gifts, but not so many are as interested in discovering their Spiritual Fruit. We have Spiritual Gifts Surveys, but no Spiritual Fruit Surveys. Although I did finally stumble upon one which I will share later.

I want us to understand from a Biblical perspective, that...

Our Spiritual Gifts, are how the indwelling Holy Spirit of God, chooses to use the Christian, in a manner that is beyond our human and natural abilities, in order to accomplish His purposes and bring God glory.

Spiritual Gifts are not super-human abilities, but they are super-natural abilities. The gifts are not intended to make anyone into a Super-star Christian with celebrity status among fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

I personally feel that if you just want to identify or discover your spiritual gifts out of curiosity, then that is the wrong motive. If you are not interested in exercising our spiritual gifts, then we don't have any reason to be identifying our spiritual gifts. The Spiritual Gifts are meant to be put to use.

## Spiritual Gifts: the Source

\* The Source of the Spiritual Gifts are from the Holy Spirit of God.

I ask that we attempt to keep from viewing the Spiritual Gifts as gift wrapped presents that God gives to Christians. Likewise, try to refrain from viewing Spiritual Fruit as apples on trees, although that is a symbol that may help us understand it at times.

### 1) The Holy Spirit Indwells every believing Christian.

Before Pentecost, the Holy Spirit “visited” believers, “came upon them” in power, “rested” on them, was “with them”, at times was “in” one, but did not dwell in them, that is did He not *Indwell* them or have continual residency within a person.

[cp. Gen.41:38; 1Samuel 1:11:6; 1Sam.19:20; Numb.11:25;]

While Jesus was still with His disciples, he gave them this promise.

**Joh 14:16-17** ESV And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, (17) even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and *will be in you.*

After Jesus’ ascension and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to continually Indwell believing Christians for the first time.

**Act 2:4** ESV And they were all *filled* with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

[cp.Acts.2:1-4]

And in 1 Corinthians chapter 6, Paul points out through a rebuke, that the Holy Spirit of God is living inside each and every true believer. This was intended to make them consider their sinful lifestyle, in light of the “Spirit of Holiness” Who was now living in them.

**1Cor 6:18-19** ESV Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. (19) Or do you not know that your body is a temple of ***the Holy Spirit within you***, whom you have from God? You are not your own,

## **2) The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are His Grace at work...**

\* There are a variety of gifts and each one as individual as the believer himself.

**Rom 12:6** ESV Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;

“Grace” of God are spiritual “graces” or gifts. That is, the graces (Charis) of God are His unmerited favor or benefits dispensed to us according to His sovereign plan and purpose. Gifts of the Spirit are from the Holy Spirit and should be, manifestations of the Holy Spirit Himself. Therefore, the manifestation of the Gift should be as though the Spirit of God Himself is serving through us, treating others the way God Himself would treat them or speaking through us, as though God Himself were speaking through us! The Holy Spirit is the Source of the Spiritual gifts, graces, power and abilities. Therefore, the “gifts” should reflect the “Spirit of Holiness”, and should characterize the “Spirit of Holiness”.

*So the Holy Spirit is the Source of our Spiritual Gifts*

### **Spiritual Gifts: the Purpose**

\* The purpose of the Spiritual Gifts is to bring glory to God! It is not to make Super-stars out of those who manifest certain gifts.

#### **a.) To Build up the Body of Christ.**

\* The purpose of the spiritual gifts are for the overall greater good of the church. Take note of these passages.

**1Co 14:5b** ESV ..The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so **that the church may be built up.**

**1Co 14:17** ESV For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is **not being built up.**

**1Co 12:7** ESV To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good.**

As we can see, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are for the building up of the body of Christ, the church.

**b) to display holy character**

Gifts of the Holy Spirit, from the Indwelling HS, should display the character or evidence the holiness of the Holy Spirit Himself, who is the Giver of these gifts.

**c.) To Glorify and bring praise to God**

\* Pentecost was the pouring out of the manifestation of the Holy Spirit of God upon the body of Christ, the Church. This marked a profound time of transition in the workings of God and the life of the church.

**Act 2:11** ESV both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians-- we hear them telling in our own tongues **the mighty works of God.**"

That was the focus and purpose of the manifestations of the Holy Spirit of God.

**Mat 5:16** ESV In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and **give glory to your Father** who is in heaven.

All deeds, all words, all acts, all ministries, all gifts of the Spirit are untended and meant to bring honor and praise and Glory and attention to God. If not, then it is not the workings of the Holy Spirit.

- 1) The Issue and the Need for Balance.
  - 2) The Source and Purpose of the Spiritual Gifts.
- Now we look at...*

## THE SPIRITUAL FRUIT: SOURCE AND PURPOSE (Gal.5:22)

\* While the fruit of the Spirit are crucial, they are often not as sought after as the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Gal 5:22-23** ESV But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

### Spiritual Fruit: Source

\* Spiritual Fruit is evidence of spiritual maturity and the Holy Spirit working through you. I remember a man in my church years ago, who claimed God had called him to be a prophet. This was not someone who foretold the future, but someone who forth tells the word of God “with power and authority”. And he began going around basically singling people out, pointing out their weakness and telling them they needed to repent and straighten up, all the while attaching a Bible verse onto his “proclamations”.

I can remember at the time, I thought, “this doesn’t seem right”. Now looking back on it, if he did have the spiritual gift of prophet, it was not working in conjunction with the Fruit of the Spirit. A little kindness would have worked well for him, or perhaps mercy and patience. The Gifts and the Fruit of the Spirit did not seem to be working together in that man’s “ministry” and as a result he offended and repelled many that he tried to minister to.

The Spiritual Gifts and the Spiritual Fruit are equally from the Holy Spirit. We should be just as interested in identifying and manifesting the Fruit of the Spirit as we are in identifying and manifesting the Gifts of the Spirit. Just as the Gifts of the Spirit are ways in which God chooses to use you; the Fruit of the Spirit are ways in which God desires to change you and transform your character from the old person you used to be, into the person God wants you to become.

**Summary:** So, the fruit of the Spirit are evidences of Spiritual maturity, brought about by the Holy Spirit and displayed by the Holy Spirit in the life of the believing Christian. Gifts are the

working of the Holy Spirit through you, and the Fruit are how we utilize those gifts.

### **Spiritual Fruit: Purpose**

The Fruit of the Spirit are character traits and as Fruit, are evidences of Spiritual maturity. The Gifts are not necessarily indicators of Spiritual maturity but the Fruit are. They are marks of maturity, depth, and Christ-likeness. And, we should take note, the Fruit of the Spirit in Gal.5:22-23, are character traits we demonstrate toward others.

#### **1) Fruit of the Spirit are to govern the Gifts of Spirit**

\* This is again, an issue of balance. Gifts and Fruit are a match made in heaven and the two, though different, are not to be separated.

**Col 3:12-15** ESV Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, (13) bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (14) And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (15) And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

These spiritual fruit above, reinforce that the Fruit of the Spirit are focused on how we treat one another, thus being crucial in governing the manifestations of our gifts.

#### **2) Fruit of the Spirit are also to bring Glory to God.**

\*

**Joh 15:8** ESV By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

**Mat 5:16** ESV In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Not only in the Fruit, but in every area of life and ministry, our lives should bring Glory to God, if we are truly being used by the Spirit.

**3) Fruit is the purpose and intent of God** in the Lives of His children. This is not intended to be the exception, but the bottom line for all Christians – Fruit.

**Luk 6:44** ESV for each **tree is known by its own fruit**. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.

**Joh 15:8** ESV By this my Father is glorified, that you bear **much fruit** and so prove to be my disciples.

Spiritual fruit is the intent and purpose of God for our lives. We will get more into this at another time.

### **ASSIGNMENT:**

READ The Scripture References on your bulletin insert. Please Pray through this for accurate understanding.

Read the passage on the Fruit and on the Gifts. Fill in the lists and become familiar with them. Then if you have time, attempt to match together, the fruit that would balance well the gifts; or which gift of the Spirit could be balanced with which fruit of the Spirit. Match them with connecting lines if you have time. We will pick up here later.

### **Remember:**

**(1)** The Gifts of the Spirit and the Fruit of the Spirit are “a match made in heaven.” Both gifts and fruit work together; ministry and character are both governed by the Holy Spirit and both are equally important in the workings of God in the lives of His people.

**(2)** Hopefully, by the end of this series, we will better understand the importance of the Gifts and the Fruit working together, as well as the important part each of us play in the life and health of the body of Christ.

**ASSIGNMENT  
WORKSHEET:**

**List of Gifts**

1 Cor.12:8-10

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)
- 9)

1Cor.12:28

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)

Eph.4:11

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

1 Pet.4:10-11

- 1)
- 2)

Rom.12: 6-8

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)

**List of Fruit**

Galatians 5:22

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)
- 9





# “Identifying and Understanding the Spiritual Gifts”-pt1

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-- A Match Made in Heaven --

**Text:** Rom.12; 1Cor.12; Eph.4; 1Pet.4

Nov. 15, 2015

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” --1Corinthians 12:7 ESV

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The early Celtic Christians called the Holy Spirit 'the wild goose.  
' And the reason why is they knew that you cannot tame him.  
-John Eldredge

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**Review** from last msg: Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit are a Match made in Heaven. Spiritual Gifts, affect our ministry, while Spiritual Fruit affect our character. Gifts and Fruit work together. Ministry and Character are both to be governed by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Source of our Spiritual Gifts and their purposes are to build up the Church, and to bring glory and praise to God.

Gifts operate when we walk by faith and take steps of obedience. Why do we desire to exercise our Spiritual Gifts?

## **Reasons to desire the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (J.Piper)**

- 1)** We should desire the Spiritual Gifts because we desire God Himself. "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.(1Cor.12:7)
- 2)** We should desire the Spiritual Gifts because, we are hopelessly powerless, unless the Spirit of God in His own power, Supernaturally enables, and equips us for the supernatural tasks he has planned for us.
- 3)** We should desire the Spiritual Gifts because, God has told us to desire them.

**1Cor. 12:31** ESV But *earnestly desire* the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

**1Cor. 14:1** ESV Pursue love, and *earnestly desire the spiritual gifts*, especially that you may prophesy.

## **Things to remember about the Spiritual Gifts:**

- 1)** You won't probably identify or discover your spiritual gifts unless you are closely and consistently connected to a local church.

**Act 13:1-3** ESV Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. (2) While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (3) Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

If the Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts, then their discovery must by nature be a spiritual experience. When we walk in obedience, we must trust that the Holy Spirit will respond with the revelation of His gifts in our lives. [cmalliance.org]

- 2)** The Gifts must not be separated from the Giver. The gifts of the HS are how the Indwelling Holy Spirit residing in you, desires to use you within His plan and purpose.
- 3)** The list of Spiritual gifts are probably not exhaustive. In 1 Cor.12; Rom.12: Eph.4; and 1 Pet 4, there are differing lists,

indicating that the gifts that are listed, are examples or reference points for the lesson being presented. There are possibly others gifts, but we are not specifically told.

**4)** Identifying and discovering our Spiritual Gifts require time, patience, active Christian service, growing maturity, and a desire focused on the call and will of God for us, rather than our own curiosity of how we may be gifted.

**5)** The Gifts of the Spirit are to be used together with the calling of God. If you desire to discover your spiritual giftedness, then seek God's purpose and calling and will for your life. Be obedient. Be actively serving in the church.

## INTRODUCTION

We tend to have a significant interest in Spiritual gifts, sometimes because of how we think they make us look in the eyes of others. But gifts are not intended to make celebrities or superstars out of anyone.

Scripture does not indicate that there are certain gifts that have ceased. That is a popular view among many, but scripture itself does not clearly teach that.

### **Have some spiritual gifts ceased to exist?**

No. Because spiritual gifts were given to build up the church, the body of Christ. As long as the church is under construction, spiritual gifts are needed. A day will come when spiritual gifts will no longer be needed (*1Cor.13:8*). However, we do not believe that this day has yet come. It will come when perfection comes (*1Cor.13:10*). Some interpret this "perfection" to be the completion of the canon of Scripture (the Apostolic Age).

However, this is not a good rendering of the...text. We believe that this refers to the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. When the church, the bride of Christ is complete and perfect[ly built up], that is when spiritual gifts will no longer be necessary.

[cmalliance.org]

Scripture does not delineate between the importance and permanence of some gifts, as though others are of lesser importance and more temporary.(1 Cor.12:13-14) The Apostle Paul refers to the church as a body; one of many parts.

**1Cor. 12:12** ESV For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

**1Cor. 12:21** ESV The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

Though the eye may have a celebrity perception of itself, it is no better or greater or more of a celebrity than the hand. The eye may say, "If it weren't for me, the body could go nowhere. You have to see where you're going you know." But then the hand would say to the eye, "have you ever tried unlocking a door and turning the door knob.?" If it weren't for me, you'd be stuck in the same old room all the time."

Or if the head had somehow achieved super star status, he might think, "I'm more important than the foot. For one thing, I 'm higher up than the foot. And another thing, I 'm the one with all the brains you know." But the foot could say, "Now are we so high and mighty? Did you happen to see what I had to walk through to get you here today? I'm the one who got muddy. I'm the one who is stinking and smelly. I'm the one with blisters on my heel and bunions on my toes. I'm the one that gets you to where we need to go. And yet no one is interested in me. They only look at you."

The Holy Spirit informs us that every part of the Body of Christ is of equal importance. No one in any position or with any spiritual gift should have any celebrity syndrome. The body is what the body is , because it is a body – a group of members working together to accomplish its needed tasks.

**AT Robertson** says it this way: "So far from the more dignified members like the eye and the head being independent of the

subordinate ones like the hands and feet, they are [all the] much more in need of them. Things are not always what they seem. The vital organs, such as the heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys, may not be visible, and yet, life cannot exist without them.” There are no unimportant gifts.

And as far as one ceasing or becoming unnecessary – the body does not mutate or evolve to the degree that the eye, evolves away and ceases to exist. Or the bowels cease to exist over time.

**1Cor. 12:27** ESV Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

If the body ever lost even one of its parts, it would and could be handicapped.

**1Cor. 13:8-10** ESV Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. (9) For we know in part and we prophesy in part, (10) but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

“that which is perfect or complete” -- Albert Barnes: The sense here is, that “in heaven” - a state of absolute perfection - that which is “in part,” or which is imperfect, shall be lost in superior brightness. All imperfection will vanish. And all that we here possess that is obscure shall be lost in the superior and perfect glory of that eternal world. All our present unsatisfactory modes of obtaining knowledge shall be unknown. All shall be clear, bright, and eternal.

If all gifts were given for the building up of the church” why would some come to cease?

In heaven the gifts will not be needed, because the earthly will be gone and the spiritual and completeness will endure.

We will be glorified in heaven and the Holy Spirit will fill all things.

**Eph 4:11-13** ESV And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, (12) to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, (13)

until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Spiritual gifts supplement our weaknesses. There will be no weaknesses in heaven, therefore there will be no need of spiritual gifts in heaven. But until that time the Holy Spirit will continue to use His gifts to build up the church and bring each of us to mature manhood, which in measurement will be like the fullness of Christ himself.

*Today, we are...*

## IDENTIFYING THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

\* Main passages are: Rom.12:6-8; 1Cor.12:8-10;28; Eph.4:11; 1Pet.4:11.

Some may go the Bible to get their questions about the Gifts of the Spirit answered and are not satisfied with the answers they receive. As a result they then stray from the Truth and pursue the teachings of others who make assumptions and often provide misleading information.

**1Cor.12:1** ESV Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.

Paul seems to assume that believers will know what their spiritual gifts are. [Grudem ch52-53 7. Discovering and Seeking Spiritual Gifts.]

We read that and immediately we think, “Ok, now he’s going to answer my questions, and help me identify or discover my Spiritual Gifts.” But he doesn’t. In fact, Paul disappoints many because he does not tell us what we *want* to hear. But, we can be sure he tells us what we *need* to hear. And that is the most important thing.

People squeeze this passage like trying to squeeze blood out of a turnip, but they never get it. People take a square peg, place it in a round hold and take a great big hammer and they begin pounding

away. And when you take those measures, you can certainly shift things around, but you destroy the meaning.

**2Tim. 2:15** ESV Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling the word of truth.**

If there is anywhere in all of Holy Scripture where the Church needs to implement 2 Tim.2:15, it is in this area of spiritual gifts.

Being “uninformed”(1Cor.12:1) can mean, to be without knowledge. But it can also mean to be **without understanding**, which in reality, is the bottom line. A person can be well informed, but still greatly lacking in understanding. I believe this is Paul’s point in 1Cor.12:1. Because he has a good opportunity to inform us on a deeper level, if he were to share with us the understanding of these words and ministries from their NT point of view, but he doesn’t. We are therefore left with the responsibility of being diligent students who responsibly handle the word Truth, that is the Bible.

He had a great opportunity to inform us on how to identify or discover our spiritual gifts, but he doesn’t. He doesn’t inform us with what we **want** to hear.

Instead, he informs us on what we **need** to hear and that is, he offers instruction and understanding on how the spiritual gifts are intended to be used, and what they are intended to accomplish.

When we attempt to understand words in Scripture, we define them with our Bible dictionaries and we also consider the context of how the word is used.

### **Graces listed & Defined**

\* Our sources for defining the Gifts are: Chip Ingram, Assembly of God, James MacDonald, John MacArthur, Wayne Grudem and a few others.

**Romans 12:** (Note Bulletin insert)

**1) Prophecy**(proph teia) Rom.12:6/ 1Cor.12:10;/Eph.4:11 (office or position or ministry)

We hear “prophecy” and we immediately think it refers to the foretelling of the future, but not necessarily. The gift of prophecy is an extraordinary and unique gift. It is a gift that is to be especially desired (1Cor.14:1). Prophecy is intended to be a gift and a blessing to the church and should not be quenched or despised (1Thes.5:20) [www.spiritualgifttest.com].

This is the spiritual ability to speak forth the mind and counsel of God. Prophets in the Old Testament were used by God to speak to Israel about current and future events.[Ron Ritchie]

**Prophecy:** Reveals truth by exposing sin, so that fellowship with God can be restored and/or maintained.[iblp.org]

**2) Service**(Ministry/diakonia)<sup>Rom.12:7/1Pet.4:11</sup> - The divine nablement to attach spiritual value to the accomplishment of physical tasks within the Body of Christ. Ability to demonstrate love by meeting practical needs that releases other Christians for direct spiritual ministry.[ChipIngram].

**3) Teaching**(didaskalia)<sup>Rom.12:7/Eph.4:11/1Cor:12:28</sup> Spiritual ability to educate God’s people by clearly explaining and applying the Bible in a way that causes others to learn. This person equips and trains people for ministry through their teaching. The teacher is always focused on Truth. Prophetic gifting focuses on the will, Teachers focus on the mind.[JamesMacDonald]

**4) Exhort**(comfort)<sup>Rom.12:8</sup> (parakale ) – Exhortation is the word parakaletē – and is the same root word that means one called along side to help. Exhortation is not standing in the pulpit brow-beating people. It's not even a public gift. The gift of exhortation is the ability to get alongside somebody and comfort them with love. That's what exhortation is. [This gift] is one of the most wonderful and precious of all the grace gifts. It's the word from which we get the word paraklete, which is the Holy Spirit's title. Jesus said, "if I go away," John 14, "I'll send you another comforter, paraklet, one who will come along side and help you." It literally means, an encourager, an advocate or a helper.[JohnMacArthur/gty.org]



**Giving**<sup>Rom.12:8</sup> –( metadid mi) Romans 12:8 lists a verb coming from meta (“with”) and did (“giving, sharing”), and having the meaning of “give (a part of)” or “share.” In its four other NT occurrences metadid mi clearly has this idea of “sharing” or “imparting.” Luke 3:11 speaks of sharing a coat, Rom 1:11 of imparting a spiritual gift, Eph 4:28 of the sharing of money, and 1 Thess 2:8 of sharing the gospel and one’s own soul. This gift of giving or sharing could well be then in the realm of physical giving (e.g., 1 Cor 13:3, giving to the poor) or the giving of one’s self (e.g., 1 Thess 2:8). Any one of these areas should be characterized by sincerity or simplicity (Rom 12:8.) The gift is sufficiently broad to include the whole area of Christian giving.[MacArthur]

**5) Leading**(proistēmi)<sup>Rom.12:8</sup> – Can refer to presiding or watching over; attending to; also translated “to devote oneself” to some task or assignment. This might be an organizational or managerial gift. It is used with the word “diligence” which indicates speed or efficiency. This may not be an out front leader in the spotlight, but someone in the background who can make things work for those who are in more out front kinds of ministries. [Jeff Wilson]

**ASSIGNMENT.** Read the passages of scripture on the bulletin insert. What are the differences from the list of Spiritual Gifts in 1Cor.12 and Rom. 12, with those listed in Eph.4:11?

## GIFTS OF THE

### SPIRIT

#### **Romans 12**

Prophecy<sup>v6</sup>  
Service<sup>v7</sup>  
Teaching<sup>v7</sup>  
Exhort (comfort)<sup>v8</sup>  
Giving<sup>v8</sup>  
Leading<sup>v8</sup>  
Mercy<sup>v8</sup>

#### **1 Corinthians**

Word of knowledge<sup>v8</sup>  
Word of wisdom<sup>v8</sup>  
Gifts of healing<sup>v9</sup>  
Working of miracles<sup>v10</sup>  
Prophecy<sup>v10</sup>  
Discernment of Spirits<sup>v10</sup>  
Kinds of tongues<sup>v10</sup>  
Interpretation of Tongues<sup>v10</sup>  
Apostles, prophets, teachers,  
miracles, healing, helping,  
administrating, tongues<sup>v28</sup>

#### **Ephesians 4**

Keep the unity of the Spirit in  
the bond of peace<sup>v3</sup>  
Apostles<sup>v11</sup>  
Prophets<sup>v11</sup>  
Evangelists<sup>v11</sup>  
Shepherds<sup>v11</sup>  
Teachers

#### **1 Peter 4**

Speaks<sup>v11</sup>  
Serves<sup>v11</sup>



# “Identifying and Understanding the Spiritual Gifts”-pt2

Dec.6 2015

## INTRODUCTION

1) **Spiritual Gifts** are as unique as the person exercising the gift is unique.

**Rom 12:3-5** ESV For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. (4) For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, (5) so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

**1) The Spiritual Gifts** are not cookie cutter gifts, but each gift is a personal and unique manifestation of the Holy Spirit and is in accordance with the level of faith of the individual. This seems to indicate that the gifts may develop or increase as the person's faith develops and increases.

**2) Spiritual Gifts** are to be exercised at the discretion of the user.

**Rom 12:6-8** ESV Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; (7) if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; (8) the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, **in generosity**; the one who leads, **with zeal**; the one who does acts of mercy, **with cheerfulness**.

v.3 reads “according to the measure of faith...” and v.6 reads “in proportion to his faith”. Each of the manifestations of the gifts

above are to be balanced or governed or manifested together with, these traits, or fruit, which are inseparably linked with the gift itself.

Never is there an inference or excuse for a harsh, brash, “truth speaking” prophet, who performs his ministry or exercises her spiritual gift apart from a loving, cheerful, merciful spirit.

**1Cor. 14:31-32** ESV For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, (32) and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets.

“The spirit of the prophets are subject to the prophets.” Al Barnes states: “Here the gift of prophecy was to be exercised in a spirit of humility and an attitude of deference toward others.”

**3) With this we realize that Spiritual Gifts** can be both abused or neglected altogether. Just because the Holy Spirit has given an insight, gift or impression, does not mean we ever have the right or freedom to exercise that gift in accordance with our own flesh or natural tendencies. “Well that’s just the way I am”, is not an excuse, but an admission of having never allowed God’s Holy Spirit to transform our hearts to match that of the Savior’s.

If someone claims to have the spiritual gift of Leadership, does not mean that he or she leads by barking out commands that others need to behave and get in line and comply with the orders given, like a bully.

We must remember, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are still from the Holy Spirit and must reflect His character, His holiness and His intent through the life and exercise of the human vessel or user. Again, the gifts of the Spirit, must always be manifest in a manner that is balanced with the fruit of the Spirit. They are a match made in heaven and a marriage that is to be inseparably linked.

Today we pick up the gifts at the end of the list in Romans chp. 7.

**Mercy** <sup>Rom.12:8</sup> (elee ) The gift of Mercy seeks to sacrificially demonstrate God’s love and compassion by responding to hurts and needs of those who are in affliction, want and misery.

This person may more readily feel or experience the pain or heartache or stress of others.

## **1 Corinthians 12**

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**8) Word of knowledge**<sup>1Cor:12:8</sup> (gn sis) The ability to discover, analyze, and systematize truth for the benefit of others. With this gift, one speaks with understanding and penetration. But “the word of knowledge” can also involve supernatural perception and discernment for the purpose of ministering to others.[ChipIngram]

Always be careful of those who are quick to say, “the Lord told me”, or “the Lord showed or revealed this to me...” There are some who take the Lord’s name and uses it very freely and flippantly. Some for their own purposes, some merely do it inappropriately, or by habit.

**9) Word of wisdom**<sup>1Cor:12:8</sup> (Sophia) This gift is a message of divine counsel. It gives supernatural insight into some particular need or problem and brings practical application of God’s Word. When the Holy Spirit dispenses a message of wisdom a limited but adequate portion of insight is given to meet the specific need. The gift does not raise us to a new level of wisdom, nor does it prevent our making future mistakes. It only allows us to temporarily draw on God’s unlimited storehouse for the situation at hand (Romans 11:33). It may bring guidance to the assembly of believers (Acts 6:2–4; 15:13–21). It may give wisdom against adversaries (Luke 21:15; Acts 4:8–14,19–21; 6:9–10; Act16:16). [AG.org]

**10) Faith** (pistis)<sup>1Cor.12:9</sup> - Faith as a gift is not saving faith. It is a miraculous faith that meets unusual opportunities, as did the heroes of Hebrews 11 and as Elijah did when he confronted the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:33–40). It can also include the ability to communicate or build faith in others, as Paul did when the ship was about to be wrecked at the Island of Malta (Acts 27:25). (add.uses: 2Cor. 3:4–6). [AG.org]

This can be the supernatural ability of faith, to trust God for a miracle He wants to do or a previously unseen way in which He wants to lead. This could be evidenced in sharing the gospel, making particular life choices whereas the physical, mental understanding is unclear, yet a deep conviction and sense of confidence that you should take steps of faith and trust God for the outcome.

**11) Gifts of healing**<sup>1Cor:12:9</sup> – (iama) – This is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit Himself for enablement in bringing about miraculous, Supernatural, physical, emotional or mental healing for God's eternal purposes. This may be a gift that is "sovereignly given as the Spirit wills".(1Cor.12:11)

Again, there seems to be no indication that these gifts and especially this gift was permanent. Or if so, it may have particularly been intended for effectively demonstrating the power of God in areas which we would specifically consider as being missions focused, where the gospel is going forth for the first time, or where especially dark supernatural forces were at work.

\* Also, the more miraculous or "sign" gifts are believed to have specifically been authoritative and Messianic in nature; that is, they were specifically intended to authenticate Jesus as Messiah, as well as for the new Testament message and messenger of the gospel.

**CHARLATANS AND SHYSTERS:** In my early years in my church, they believed these miraculous or sign gifts had ceased. It was what was always passed on to me and unfortunately for some time, was what I passed on to others. Then later on, as part of a more charismatic Church, I was taught that this was fully active in the church today.

I can remember a close friend of mine, who would probably be classified as a Baptist, who took a trip to India. While there he had opportunity to preach in some villages, share the gospel and pray for people. He told me that he prayed for many people, but one elderly woman in particular. She was blind, and He and another

man prayed for this blind woman. And she was healed and could see. I believe this to be factual and absolutely true.

There was a period of time then, when I went to many local tent meetings which were advertised as healing services. Again, I wanted to learn first had from Scripture and from experience, the truth about the gifts of the Spirit. I would go to these big meetings, sometimes in basketball coliseums. Before the services, I would arrive early. I would walk down front and talk with the people who had come to be healed. I interviewed them and asked them what they were here to be healed of.

People would be brought in from nursing homes; people brought in ambulances, people brought in on stretchers, etc. I remember feeling so excited at what was about to take place. But all that I ever witnessed, were gall bladders, tooth aches, and supposedly cancer being healed. Most often there was someone with one leg that was shorter than another being healed.

Some personal lessons from this background:

**(1)** I concluded that much of what I had witnessed were charlatans and shysters. I was as upset with these, as I had been with those who had passed on to me that the gifts had ceased. But a wonderful, wise, and patient pastor said to me, “just because there are many charlatans and shysters, does not mean the real thing doesn’t exist”. I realized that we simply have to be very cautious what we accept to be genuinely from the Holy Spirit.

**CHARLATAN** – con-artist; pretender; rip-off artist; sham; imposter; quack; swindler; deceiver;

**SHYSTER** – Cheater; deceiver; trickster; scammer; mocker; phony, fraud; impersonator;

I guess I cannot hide how I feel about those who fraudulently or selfishly claim to manifest the sacred workings of the Holy Spirit of God. We cannot necessarily judge the validity of these gifts by what we see on TV. Yet, neither can we discount them either. We must always measure and evaluate all our beliefs and experiences by holy Scripture and not the other way around.

**(2)** So, because of my background, never again, do I want to be guilty of simply passing on what was passed on to me. When I stand before God I don't ever want to be guilty of leading other people astray, simply because, "it was what I was always taught."

**3)** \*\*Also, both in New Testament Scripture and in early church history, there seems to be a direct correlation between the first time hearing of the gospel, the level of supernatural opposition to the gospel and the working of Supernatural miracles and genuine demonstrations of the Spirit's manifest power. [Jeff Wilson]





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# “Identifying and Understanding the Spiritual Gifts”-pt3

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**Series Title:** “*Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit: A Match made in Heaven*” Pt.3 **Dec.13, 2015**

**Text:** Rom.12; 1Cor.12; Eph.4; Gal.5

**Title:** “Identifying and Understanding the Gifts of the Spirit””

Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." --Ephesians 4:8

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“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.”

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--Muhammad Ali

**Review** from last msg: Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit are a Match made in Heaven. Spiritual Gifts, affect our ministry, while Spiritual Fruit affect our character. Gifts and Fruit work together. Ministry and Character are both to be governed by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Source of our Spiritual Gifts and their purposes are to build up the Church, and to bring glory and praise to God.

Scripture does not delineate between the importance and permanence of some gifts, as though others are of lesser importance and more temporary.(1 Cor.12:13-14). Some may go the Bible to get their questions about the Gifts of the Spirit answered and are not satisfied with the answers they receive.

Scripture may disappoint us because in the area of the Gifts of the Spirit, it may not tell us what we *want* to hear. But, we can be sure that it tells us what we *need* to hear. And that is the most important thing.

## INTRODUCTION

**Spiritual Gifts** = “charis” from where we get the word, charisma or charismatic. We can define charis as:

“the out-working manifestations of grace, from the Indwelling Holy Spirit of God.”

Or more simply put, Spiritual gifts are the way that the Holy Spirit has chosen to use you.

Especially over the past 100-150 years, the enemy has tried to cause confusion and conflict within the church, by using the Holy Spirit and Spiritual gifts to do so. We know that our enemy is not one another, it is Satan. And the tools he often uses is Biblical Ignorance and fear. Our goal in this series is to lay aside an unfounded presuppositions which have been passed along to us, as we measure everything according to Holy Scripture.

*Today, we are...*

## IDENTIFYING THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT     pt 3

\* Main passages are: Rom.12:6-8; 1Cor.12:8-10;28; Eph.4:11; 1Pet.4:11.

Last time we ended with the Gift of miraculous healing. And our lesson was, “Just because there are frauds, charlatans and shysters out there, doesn’t mean the real thing (that being the “miraculous” spiritual gifts) do not exist. We need not fear the gifts of the Spirit,

as long as we are not ignorant of them. The Apostle Paul himself wrote:

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.” -1Cor. 12:1 ESV

### [READ 1 Cor. 12:10]

**12) the gift of Working** miracles 1Cor:12:10 (dunamis) Many if not all the gifts of the Spirit could arguably be described as “miraculous” as we often view the word.

Wayne Grudem makes these observations: The Word for “Miracles” here is *dunamis* (dynamite) which refers to some out-of-the-ordinary demonstration of power in every use. This means that the term may refer to any kind of activity where God's mighty power is evident. It may include answers to prayer for deliverance from physical danger, as in the deliverance of the apostles from prison in Acts 5:19-20 or 12:6-11; or powerful works of judgment on the enemies of the gospel or those who require discipline within the church (see Acts 5:1-11; 13:9-12); or miraculous deliverance from injury (as with Paul and the viper in Acts 28:3-6). But such acts of spiritual power may also include power to triumph over demonic opposition (as in Acts 16:18; cf. Luke 10:17).

Since Paul does not define "works of miracles" any more specifically than this, we can say that the gift of miracles may include the working of divine power in deliverance from danger, in intervention to meet special needs in the physical world (as in the case of Elijah in 1 Kings 17:1- 16), in judgment on those who irrationally and violently oppose the gospel message, in vanquishing the demonic forces that wage war against the church, and in any other ways in which God's power is manifested in an evident way to further God's purposes in a situation. All of these would be works of "power" in which the church would be helped and God's glory would be made evident.[Grudem EST]

\* Prophecy<sup>[1Cor:12:10]</sup>

**13) Discernment of Spirits**<sup>1Cor:12:10</sup> (diakrisis) - This would be a supernatural, spiritual ability to tell right from wrong, Spirit from Unspiritual, Truth from error. [JamesMacDonald] The ability to discern the spirit of truth and the spirit of error (cf. I John 4:6). With this gift, one may distinguish reality versus counterfeits, the divine versus the demonic, true versus false teaching, and in some cases, spiritual versus carnal motives. [ChipIngram]

**14) Kinds of tongues**<sup>1Cor:12:10,28</sup> (gl ssa) Spiritual ability to speak forth a message from God or to God in an unknown language. 1Cor. 12:30 says “not all speak in tongues.” 1Cor 14:39 says “do not forbid speaking in tongues.” [therefore] the use of this must follow scriptural guidelines as given in 1Cor 12-14. [JamesMacDonald]

**NOTE:** I want to include, that the usage of the gift of tongues, is different than the manifestation of tongues at Pentecost.

**15) Interpretation of Tongues**<sup>1Cor:12:10</sup> (herm neia)- Tongues And Interpretation: Tongues are Spirit-directed languages from heaven. They are unknown, even to the one who speaks them. When people speak in tongues the Holy Spirit anoints them and they are spiritually edified (strengthened and built up) through union with God. This edification happens without one ever knowing what is said. Such edification is experienced individually by the one who prays in tongues.

The Holy Spirit edifies the church body of believers much differently. For the entire group of believers to be edified, tongues must be followed with an interpretation (1Cor.14:4). The interpretation of tongues is given in the language of the congregation. It encourages the people and moves them to praise and worship the Lord. [AG.org]

This particular aspect can highlight the praises of God or point out the sin of humanity.

**16) Apostles**<sup>1Cor:12:28/Eph.4:11</sup>, (apostolos) –lit. sent with a mission; an ambassador or messenger; Original apostles were eyewitnesses to Christ and His resurrection and wrote much of the NT. For the Church, the divine enablement to start churches or ministries, and oversee their development may be apostleship. This may be the ability to minister cross-culturally with the goal of planting churches; much like today's missionary and may include a willingness to experience personal sacrifice on behalf of the ministry of the gospel of Jesus.

This could represent the compelling awareness of a special calling from God to plan and implement some ministry within the church body or outside the existing body, such as a *para* church organization.

Also, the gift of apostleship may enable a person to more readily accept major change in their life path, and endure loss due to personal sacrifice.

**NOTE:** prophets<sup>1Cor:12:28</sup>, that is one who exercises the gift of prophecy, teachers<sup>1Cor:12:28</sup>, and miracles<sup>1Cor:12:10</sup>, have been previously addressed.

**17) helping**(antilēpsis)<sup>1Cor:12:28</sup>, may be interpreted, relief; As a spiritual gift, service (Rom.12:7) is best regarded as including a wide range of loving service. Helps (1Cor.12:28) is probably best rendered “helpful deeds.”. Though many commentators have viewed this help as directed toward the sick, it includes other areas of service as well. [MacArthur]

**18) Leadership** (kubern sis)<sup>1Cor:12:28</sup>, -Lit. leading, steering of a ship; directorship; may be interpreted “governments”. This word, like helps, appears only once in the New Testament, and is used outside of Scripture as a helmsman who steers a ship to its destination. This suggests that the spiritual gift of Leadership is the ability to steer a small group, a church or Christian organization toward the fulfillment of its goals by managing its affairs and implementing necessary plans. A person may have the gift of

leadership without the gift of administration[Rom.12:9].  
[ChipIngram]

This would quite possibly be a person of vision, who sees things as they could be, shares that vision with others, leads by example and confident faith which challenges others to follow.

(\*tongues1Cor:12:28, h have already been addressed.)

Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 contain all the specifically mentioned gifts of the Spirit given in Scripture. Some believe the gift of celibacy referred to in 1Cor.7:7 can be added to this list.

**Ephesians 4** *\*This is a different category all together.*

<p><b>Eph 4:7-8</b> ESV But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. (8) Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."</p>
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\*\* In Ephesians 4, the “Gifts” being referred to here are not the same as the spiritual gifts in 1Cor12 and Rom.12. The typical Spiritual gifts are “charis” or grace manifestations from the Holy Spirit, and is the Holy Spirit working through believers from the inside out.

The “gifts” here in Eph.4, are referring to a “present”- and actually appear to be people or perhaps offices in the church, which were provided and ordained by Christ Himself as He ascended into heaven to the Father’s right hand. Therefore this are sometimes referred to as the “Ascension Gifts”.

<p><b>Eph 4:11-13</b> ESV And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, (12) to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,</p>
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Here the “Gifts” mentioned, are people who are performing a specific function in the church and who are training, teaching and equipping others to do the work of the ministry that they themselves, are doing. With this we see that certain people with certain gifts in the church are to be using those gifts to help others in ministry who may not possess that particular gift. If you don’t have the gift of mercy, God may have someone else with that Gift, in the church to help equip you to become more merciful.

In the Apostolic Church, an apostle is a leader of several churches, while not necessarily a pastor of either.

\*the Apostles<sup>Eph.4:11</sup> were **PERSONS...**doing the work of apostleship.

\*the Prophets<sup>Eph.4:11</sup> were **PERSONS...** doing the work of prophesying.

**The Evangelists**<sup>Eph.4:11</sup>(euaggelist s) were **PERSONS...** who does the work of evangelism. Spiritual ability to effectively communicate the good news of Jesus Christ to unbelievers, the ability to sense opportunities to share Christ and lead people to believe in Christ and experience eternal salvation.

[JamesMacdonald]

**The Shepherds**(poimēn) and Teachers<sup>Eph.4:11</sup> may have been a compound reference to a single gift and would be **A PERSON...** with this spiritual gift has the interest and ability to lead, nourish, protect, and personally care for the needs of a “flock” of believers. Many with this gift do not have or need the office. This gift also includes teaching ability and is the only dual gift in the list. This is the word of Pastor or Shepherd.[ChipIngram]

A person can have the **gift** of “shepherding”, without holding the **position** of church pastor. It is important to understand that these “gifts” are people who are serving and ministering in a specific capacity, but do NOT do all the ministry! They are there and they

are given to the church in order to train, prepare and equip others to do the work of the ministry of the local church.(Eph.4:12)

**1 Peter 4** *non-specific references*

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Speaks(generic)<sup>1Pet.4:11</sup>

\*Serves<sup>1Pet.4:11</sup>





# “The Greatest Gift The Christmas Gift”

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Series Title: “*The Christmas Gift*”

**Dec.20, 2015**

Text: Lk2; Jn.1; Phil.2; Is.7:14; 9:6; Mat.1:21-23

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"For **GOD** so loved the world, that he **GAVE** his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

-John 3:16 ESV

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“...He that gives, let him give generously...”(1Cor.12:8b)

--The Holy Spirit

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## INTRODUCTION

In his Advent meditations, “Good News of Great Joy”, John Piper makes these observations regarding the Star of Bethlehem and the Roman Census.

“[Our] lesson is plain: In Matthew, God is guiding foreigners by a star, to Christ to worship him. And He is doing it by exerting global—probably even universal—influences and power to get it done.”

In Luke, God is influencing the entire Roman Empire so that the census comes at the exact time to get a virgin to Bethlehem to fulfill prophecy with her delivery.

When you think about the various miracles of the Christmas story, you may wonder how anyone could have made that story up, or how anyone could have orchestrated all that to take place, other than God Himself, of course.

In our series on the Gifts of the Spirit, we are focusing today on the Christmas Gift, “the Greatest Gift”. From an Historical perspective, the Old Testament closes with Malachi and offers one of God’s final prophecies of the OT.

**Malachi 4:2** ESV But for you who fear my name, the *sun of righteousness* shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

Following the final prophecy of the OT, God went silent for approximately 400 years. It was not because the prophets said, “Oh we’re through writing now.” But because God stopped communicating. They simply had nothing to write. And God was silent for about 400 years.

Then the New Testament opens with God breaking His silence and He does it by sending angelic messengers as He announces the arrival of that “*sun of Righteousness*”, who is the Messiah (Christ) of God. This morning we look at the “Christmas Gift”, and we begin with the Gift Himself.

## **THE GIFT** (Lk.2:8-12)

\* God’s Christmas Gift is His Greatest Gift – Jesus, who is God the Son.

**John 3:16** ESV "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son [GOD the Son], that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Christmas is all about the goodness of God, in demonstrating His loving heart, by sending His only Son, in order that anyone could experience forgiveness of sins and enter into a right relationship with God.

**Luk 2:8-12** ESV And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. (9) And an angel of the **Lord** appeared to them, and the glory of the **Lord** shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. (10) And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. (11) For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the **Lord**. (12) And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

### **Lord of All** (v8-11

\* Luke shares 3 unmistakable, Supernatural references about the birth of Christ to the Shepherds.

v.8) angel of the Lord – this is obviously referring to an angel from the Lord or one sent by the Lord. And Obviously, “the Lord” here being a reference to the Lord, Jehovah God – or Yahweh God.

*SO, WHO IS THE LORD?* Jehovah or Yahweh, He is the Lord.

v.9) Glory of the Lord – referring to the Lord being Jehovah God, indicating the glory of the Lord which is shining all around to be a reference to the Glory of Jehovah, due to the manifest presence of God Himself.

*SO, WHO IS THE LORD?* Jehovah, He is the Lord.

v.11) Christ the Lord – the Lord here, being a reference to the identity of Christ; specifically referring to the identity of Jesus Christ, being that of Jehovah God, Himself.

*SO, WHO IS THE LORD?* Jehovah, He is the Lord.

So, we are talking about the birth of Christ being Jehovah, taking on flesh and blood, as being clothed with humanity. This is referred to as “the incarnation” or God the Son, taking on flesh and blood in being born as a baby in Bethlehem.

*The Lord is...*

### **Jehovah/Yahweh in Flesh (Jn.1:1-3,14; Phil.2:6-7**

**Joh 1:1-4** ESV In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) He (GOD the Son) was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made through Him (GOD the Son), and without him was not anything made that was made. (4) In Him (GOD the Son) was life, and the life was the light of men.

Jn. 1:1-3 – Word =/Son was God. Jesus Christ = the Word, which = the Creator of all things and is GOD the Son, Jehovah in the flesh.

Compare that to Philippians ch.2. Phil.2:6 –Jesus the Son was God

**Phil. 2:5-6** ESV (5) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, (6) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

Then in Phil.2:7-8 – God the Son, Jehovah took on flesh and blood, and clothed Himself in humanity.

**Phil. 2:6-8a** ESV (6) who, though he (GOD the Son) was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (8) And being found in human form (GOD the Son)...

Again, these are references to “the incarnation” of the Son of God.

God the Son – Jehovah was born in the form of a baby named Jesus. John proceeds to record that in Jn.1:14.

**Joh 1:14** ESV And the Word(God the Son) became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

So we have Scripture supporting Scripture – all confirming that Jesus Christ is God the Son, Jehovah in flesh and blood. (Jn.1 and Phil.2) What a wonderful and supernatural Gift we celebrate at Christmas. That Gift is Jesus!

Then in John 1:16 we read:

**John 1:16** ESV For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

Grace here is “charis” which is God’s unmerited favor. This indicates that we have all received the overflowing blessings from God, out of the inexhaustible Source of His Son. Christ is the Greatest Gift, out of Whom all other innumerable gifts are out-pouring and over-flowing into our lives. We receive grace upon grace or one blessing after the other. (Eph.1:3)

## THE GIVER OF GIFTS

\* The Giver of the Greatest Gift, is God the Father, Almighty.

*In Jesus, we receive the gift of...*

**Salvation** (Phil.2:8; Jn.3:16)

\* Jesus was born in order to bring about eternal salvation, from our sins and reconciliation with the Father in heaven.

**Phil. 2:8** ESV And being found in human form... he (GOD the Son) humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

The Giver of the Greatest Gift of Jesus, is God the Father, Himself.

**John 3:16** – “For **God** so loved the world, that He **GAVE** His only Son....”

*In Jesus, we receive the gift of...*

**Righteousness** (Rom.3:21ff

\* Believing in Gods’ gift, Jesus, brings Jesus’ gift of Righteousness.

**Rom 3:21-23** ESV But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it-- (22) the **righteousness** of God through **faith** in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: (23) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

**Rom 5:17** ESV For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the **free gift of righteousness** reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

I. The Greatest Gift is God the Son – Jesus.

II. The Great Gift Giver is God the Father.

**GOD WITH US** (Is.7:14; mat.1:12; Is.9:6

\* In Isaiah 9, we see two important aspects of the birth of Christ.

**Isa. 9:6** ESV For to us a child is ***born***, to us a son is ***given***; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

“A Child is born”, that is, the baby Jesus is born, in whom God the Son was clothed. The Son is not born but is Given. This is the eternally pre-existing Son of God, being born in the likeness of humanity – Jehovah in flesh and blood.

The human child was born. However, the eternal Son is not born, but Given. The Son is the unborn, uncreated, self-existent, eternal God clothed in human flesh.

Is.9:6 – “...For unto us a child is born, unto us a **SON** is given...”

Jn.3:16 – “for God so loved the world that He **GAVE** His only **SON**”. John 3:16 is a fulfilled prophecy of Isaiah 9:6 in many ways.

### **Jesus Saves** (Is.7:14

**Isa 7:14** ESV Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

### **Immanuel – God with Us.** (Mat.1:21-23

*An angel told Joseph...*

**Mat 1:21-23** ESV She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (22) All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: (23) "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Here, the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14, is clearly fulfilled in Mat.1:22-23, but adds that this child will be Messiah and Savior of the world.

So God breaks the 400 yrs of silence by the announcement of a 500 year old prophecy being fulfilled in their midst, and in their day. God the Son, in human flesh, was now with man. **Then** God dwelling with them in human form. **Now** God Indwelling us today, within our human form in the person of the Holy Spirit.

### **THoly Spirit Indwelling Us** (Jn.14:17; 1Cor.6:19-20)

\* God gave His Son. The Son gave the Holy Spirit. When Jesus walked the earth, He was God with us. Today, Jesus is ascended in heaven and He sent the Holy Spirit to actually Indwell or take up residence in each and every believing Christian.

*Jesus Promised in...*

**Joh 14:17** ESV even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

*Reinforcing this, the Apostle Paul writes...*

**1Cor. 6:19-20** ESV Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, (20) for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

The Holy Spirit is God living in you. So we are urged to glorify God in our bodies or live in a way so that the Holiness of the Holy Spirit is not defiled by the unholiness of our unholy living. We are literal temples of the Holy Spirit.

So remember: Christmas is all about the goodness of God, in demonstrating His loving heart, by sending His only Son, in order that anyone could experience forgiveness of sins and enter into a right relationship with God.

How about you? Have you trusted in Jesus Christ as God's only Son and your only personal Savior? If not, I'd like to refer you to the back section of this booklet, entitled "the **ABCs**". This will help you through expressing your faith in Christ and receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior.

**Our ASSIGNMENT This Christmas:**

- 1)** To find a time and place to worship and Adore Him. Maybe as a family or corporately as a church or even alone. Openly or privately – take time to adore and worship God this Christmas.
- 2)** To focus on Him alone as being Worthy of praise. During the Advent season, consider doing without some of the things you typically enjoy. When you begin to miss those things, then allow



that desire to bring your focus back to the Lord Jesus as the Greatest Gift of Christmas.

**3) To Give Him all the glory and honor that is due Him.**

What is God worth to you? What does He deserve from you?

How can you begin to bring honor and praise and give glory to God as He alone deserves?

We'll give You all the glory,  
We'll give You all the glory  
We'll give You all the glory,  
(because you are...)

**CHRIST THE LORD**

(( That is, God the Son, Jehovah in flesh and blood ))



# “Identifying and Understanding the Spiritual Gifts”-pt4

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Dec.27, 2015

The Context and Balance of Gifts and Fruit

**Text:** Rom.12; 1Cor.12; Eph.4:10; 1Pet.4:10; Gal.5

**Title:** “Identifying and Understanding the Gifts of the Spirit”

**Review** from last msg: Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit are a Match made in Heaven. Spiritual Gifts, affect our ministry, while Spiritual Fruit affect our character. Gifts and Fruit work together. Ministry and Character are both to be governed by the Holy Spirit. Some may go the Bible to get their questions about the Gifts of the Spirit answered and are not satisfied with the answers they receive. Scripture may disappoint us because in the area of the Gifts of the Spirit, it may not tell us what we *want* to hear. But, we can be sure that it tells us what we *need* to hear. And that is the most important thing.

## INTRODUCTION

**Spiritual Gifts** = “charis” from where we get the word, charisma or charismatic. We can define charis gifts as:

“the out-working manifestations of grace,  
from the Indwelling Holy Spirit of God.”

Or more simply put, Spiritual gifts are the way that the Holy Spirit has chosen to use you.

## EXERCISING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS *Properly*

\* This is putting your gifts into action.

## There must be a proper Exercise of the Gifts

1 Cor.12:1 “regarding the spiritual gifts, I do not want you to be

without understanding...” We spoke earlier of some who may abuse their gifts. Some may also be guilty of neglecting their gifts.

1) We really have no need in identifying or discovering our spiritual gifts, if we are not equally interested in exercising or utilizing those gifts for Christ, in the church.

**Rom 12:6** ESV Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, ***let us use them***: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;

Here we are told to exercise our gifts “in proportion to our faith”. When we begin as new believers in Christ, our faith is in its newly born stage and it begins growing and developing from there. So if our faith grows and develops, and if we are to exercise our gifts in proportion to our faith, then it seems safe to deduce that our gifts can grow and develop as we mature in our own spiritual journey. Perhaps as our faith grows deeper and stronger, our gifts grow in their Holy Spirit empowered effectiveness.

2) We should not neglect exercising our gifts.

**1Tim. 4:14** ESV ***Do not neglect the gift*** you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.

This is Paul’s instruction to young Timothy in the ministry. In other words, do not remain idle in your service for Christ. When God gives a gift, He expects us to put it to work. Our Gifts are to be used in the Church! For the Church! And By the Church!

Here it appears that a gift might be prayed for and sought and even received by prayer and the laying on of hands by the leaders in the church. This may also be what took place when the church leaders prayed for Paul and Barnabas, laid hands on them and sent them out in ministry. (Acts 13).

I see no indication that would prevent us from this practice in the body of Christ today.

**3)** Scripture teaches that every believer has one or more spiritual gifts or a grace manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

**1Co 12:7 ESV** To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

((that is, within the body of Christ, the church))

God doesn't leave anyone out when it comes to using Christians. God doesn't just use great Christians, He makes great Christians out of those who faithfully serve Him. And these people are not great because they have done great things, but it is actually the Indwelling Holy Spirit of God, who is great, is working greatly, doing great things and accomplishing great tasks through those whom He indwells.

**1Cor. 14:12 ESV** So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, *strive to excel in building up the church.*

That describes those of us who are interested in identifying and discovering our spiritual gifts. As James MacDonald stated "[All manifestations of the Spirit] must follow scriptural guidelines as given in I Cor. 12-14." [JamesMacDonald]

We should not be fearful. We should not be too confused. Neither should be idle or inactive.

### **There is to be a proper Distribution of the Grace**

\* Context is everything! There are people who believe there is no need to gather with other believers. But the gifts of the Spirit are to be evidenced while actively participating in the local church body life. Gifts are observed and identified by other believers, as they serve together. Gifts are intended to be utilized by the church, and for the Church.

**ILL)** Not long ago, I was speaking with a couple I had not seen in some time. I asked them how they were doing and then I asked where they were attending church? The response was, "Oh we

stay home and watch TV church.” I said, well the church is designed for personal growth through interaction with other believers. To which one replied, “Oh we’re more spiritually mature than we have ever been.”

How mistaken and unfortunate that is. Even if you were so spiritually mature that you didn’t need other Christians, the fact of the matter is the church is in need of whatever gifts **you** possess for the building up of the “body”, and for the “common good” of all, not just the “*spiritually mature*.”

**NOTE:** Now we are not talking about people who are home-bound, or shut-ins who are physically or otherwise, unable to get out and get to church. We’re certainly not talking about Christians in other parts of the world who have to hide or for fear of their lives and safety of family, live in secrecy from the oppressive culture around them.

This is about physically healthy Christians, who simply do not feel they need the church. Church is not about you or me, but about the body, helping, serving and building up one another, that is the enjoined body of Christ.

**1Pet. 4:10-11** ESV As ***each*** has received a gift, ***use*** it to serve ***one another***, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God: (11) whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies--in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**2 things here: FIRST**, what is a steward? A Steward is someone entrusted with a valued possession, with the expectation of managing and caring for that which belongs to someone else, for some great cause. That means each of us, have responsibility before God to use our gifts for the benefit of the overall church body, but ultimately for the overall glory of God Himself and that can’t happen by going to TV Church.

**SECONDLY**, what exactly is meant by “the manifold grace of God”? Manifold refers to the variety and diversity of Gods’ grace, given to the user as Steward of that grace. Manifold refers to different kinds of graces. In fact it refers to more than just a few different kinds.

In the 1800s, Henry Alford wrote these words regarding Spiritual gifts: “The manifold grace of God’—the term is a remarkable one; it is that word by which the Greeks expressed infinite variety of hue or of design; such as the shiftings and glistenings of richly mingled colours or the dappled patterns of skilful embroidery. And by it a lesson is conveyed to us of no inconsiderable importance. We have not, I think, been good stewards of this manifold grace. We have been ever apt to look on the grace of God in one or at most in some few of its aspects only. We have forgotten its manifoldness, its many-shifting hues, its exquisite and inexhaustible richness of tint and pattern.” [-- Henry Alford, churchman, scholar, poet and writer of the early 1800s.]

**THIRDLY**, again, the purpose of Gifts is clear – “*in everything may God be glorified.*”

The Apostle Peter uses this expression in reference to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, so what we are given in Scripture may indeed be only a representation of the many, many unspecified grace gifts. As the Holy Spirit is infinite, so may we say are the Holy Spirit manifestations (1Pet.4:10) and workings through His people.

## **DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS** *Biblically*

\* To be clear, I don’t think Spiritual Gifts Surveys are sinful or necessarily wrong, but neither do I see them as being Biblical or necessarily productive in identifying spiritual gifts.

### **A Garden of life**

Our spiritual life is like GARDEN. There are different stages of growth. Some seeds, new sprouts beginnings, slow growth in season, then fruit. Our gifts are part of that.

We can't short cut the development process and when we try, I believe the short change our own development as well as the Spirit's desire to use us.

Discovering your gifts does not come from reading your survey results on a piece of paper, but rather from the Holy Spirit confirming, leading, impressing and revealing it to you over time. It seems to be more of the Spirit of God, bearing witness to our spirit. (Rom.8:16) The older we get in the faith and the more mature we grow in the Spirit's work in our lives, we should be growing more sensitive to the Holy Spirit's "voice" or His means of communicating with us.

I believe the more mature you are in the faith, the more aware of your giftedness you will become. Identifying our gifts is more likely to be a process of growth and development, like a garden, and a process that takes time, even years. In short, there are not short cuts to identifying and discovering your spiritual gifts. It is not something that man can tell you, it has to be revealed to us from God, as we serve and grow as Christians.

### **A Church centered context**

The identification and exercise of the Spiritual Gifts will only be adequately realized when we submit ourselves to His Holy Spirit, Inviting Him to Take the Lives He has given us; seek and pursue and desire and pray for toward the calling of God in our life and then use our gifts for the overall good of the Church and glory of God.

In Acts chapter 9, Saul is dramatically converted to faith in Christ. He later becomes referred to as the Apostle Paul. He and Barnabas began ministering together. Then we come to Acts 13.

**Act 13:1-3** ESV Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. (2) While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the

work to which I have called them." (3) Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

While this is not a direct reference to the Spiritual Gifts, it is a direct reference pertaining to the identifying and discovery process of learning how the Indwelling Holy Spirit desires to use us, as it relates to the call and plan of God in your own life.

(1) Context: this took place within the body of Christ, the church.

(2) They were actively worshiping or serving the Lord.

(3) they were fasting – purposeful prayer and seeking God.

(4) The Holy Spirit spoke clearly – somehow communicating, or moving or impressing -- somehow indicating to the church and specifically to the leaders – indicating and communicating the leading and intent of the Holy Spirit for the calling of God upon those men.

\* Remember, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are directly related to the calling of God in a person's life. If you want to discover your spiritual gifts, then be prayerfully, seeking God's calling for your life, while actively participating in ministry in your local church.

(5) Church leaders observed Paul and Barnabas as they were actively ministering in the church and understood the message of the Holy Spirit.

(6) They prayed and fasted and laid hands on them; setting them apart for the ministry and sending them off together.(v.3)

All this was in the context of serving in the local church body and the Holy Spirit identified how He wanted to use them.

How involved are you in your church? Have you neglected your Spiritual Gifts? Have you identified your gifts? You probably never will until you are actively serving in a ministry capacity, in order for the leaders of the church to observe you and confirm your gifts and God's calling.



I know we want to find our gifts and find more meaning in our ministry efforts. But I don't see that Scripture promises that once we find our gifts, that we'll be happier and more satisfied in serving Christ.

Some see identifying spiritual gifts as an event rather than a process. I'd like to encourage you to consider these steps in attempting to discover your gifts.

**1) Seek God's purpose**, direction and calling for your life. The Holy Spirit Gifts and the calling of God go hand in hand and are directly related. The gifts are to empower you to fulfill God's plan to use you. On the other hand, if you are not interested, pursuing or seeking God's call and direction for your life, then you shouldn't expect to discover your spiritual gifts.

**2) Surrender to the call** of God for you. He has a plan for you, specifically. He has gifts to develop in you, personally. But again, if you are not surrendered to His will and what He wants to do in your life and the direction He desires to lead you, then the Holy Spirit is not obligated to reveal anything about His gifts or graces in your life. If we are not interested in utilizing and exercising our gifts the way God intends, then we have no business in trying to identify those spiritual gifts. It must be more to us, than an issue of curiosity or a fad.

**3) Serve the Lord** faithfully in the local church. When you begin to do this, your gifts will begin to bloom in your spiritual garden and beautiful and wonderful things will begin to take place in your life ministry for Christ. As you are serving, you are providing opportunities for God to confirm His calling and direction and giftedness, through His Spirit bearing witness with your spirit, as well as through the observation of the Spiritual leaders around you.

For the many here at CEFC who are actively and faithfully serving the Lord, we are so very thankful for you, for God's Holy Spirit working in you and for the important part you play in God's kingdom work, and in your ministry within our local church family.

## **BALANCING YOUR GIFTS *Supernaturally.***

\* Again, this is in regard to the Gifts of the Spirit being balanced with the Fruit of the Spirit. Both gifts and fruit of the Spirit are manifestations of God's Spirit of Holiness in the life of the believing Christian He indwells. Gifts are basically for ministry, while Fruit are basically character elements.

**1) Everywhere the Gifts of the Spirit are addressed,** it is in the context of a loving rebuke and correction in how the gifts were being misused.

In Romans 12 and 1 Cor.12 – Paul is addressing a misuse of the Gifts of the Spirit. He offers a light rebuke to the church for exercising their Gifts, in a manner in which is self-focused, and missing the mark of building up the body of Christ, for the common good of the overall church.(1Cor.12:7)

In Rom.12:6-8 Paul corrects and instructs re: the exercising of the gifts and the manifestation of the graces of the Holy Spirit.

He precedes his address on the Gifts, with instruction regarding the need for Humility and deferring to others in v.3 and he follows it with a call for the gifts to be exercised with love in vs.9 & 10. This is a balance of gifts with fruit.

Likewise, in 1 Cor.11 Paul rebuked the church for abusing the Lord's Table. Then in 1 Cor.12:8-10, he addresses the misuse of the Gifts. He precedes his address of the Gifts by calling the church to remember that the gifts are given, not to allow someone to be in the spotlight or the center of attention, but that each gift is to be used for the common good of all in the church.(1Cor,12:7). After which he follows his the address on the gifts with an exhortation for *all* things to be done with the fruit of love,(Ch.13, and 14:1).

**2) In 1 Cor. When Paul addresses the misuse of the Gifts** of the Spirit, it is in reference to the “miraculous” or sign gifts. Interesting that the gifts are mentioned in the book of Romans, written to the Christians in Rome and in 1 Corinthians to the

believers in Corinth. Rome Italy and Corinth Greece, are approximately 800 miles apart, if you cross the Adriatic Sea from Italy to Greece. Or its approximately 1500 miles apart if they travel solely by land.

I found it interesting that Christians that far apart from one another, experience the same kinds of problems with these gifts -that is, it seems, and especially in regard to the more Miraculous of Sign gifts, that “self” often gets in the way of the exercising of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Pride that thinks, “My gift is better than hers, or more important than his.” Tongues or healing or prophecy is more important than mercy, giving or service. This attitude is a mistake.

I also found it interesting that the problem with the Gifts of the Spirit don’t seem to manifest themselves with the Fruit of the Spirit. We don’t read of Paul scolding the Church because their compassion is running amuck in the church or that their gift of giving is just way out of control; or that they have gone completely overboard with the manifestation of the fruit of peace and joy. But with the gifts and the sign gifts specifically, were the ones more likely to be misused and abused.

**3) Everywhere the Gifts of the Spirit are addressed,** they are mentioned in conjunction with some of the fruit of the Spirit. Paul brings up the misuse of the Gifts, while preceding that rebuke and following up that rebuke, with instruction in those gifts of the Spirit being balanced with the fruit of the Spirit.

While the Gifts of the Spirit is how God wants to use you, the Fruit of the Spirit is how God wants to change you, into the person of holy living, with Christ-like character.

Fruit	Fruit	Fruit
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<b>Gifts</b>	<b>Gifts</b>	<b>Gifts</b>
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Fruit	Fruit	Fruit
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Why does Paul do this? Because the Gifts of the Spirit and the Fruit of the Spirit are a match made in heaven and are to be married together and inseparably linked.

### **ASSIGNMENT:**

Remember the gifts of the HS are how the Indwelling Holy Spirit chooses to use you and the Fruit of the Holy Spirit is how the Indwelling Spirit of Holiness desires to change you. They are intended to work in balance with one another. They are a match made in heaven, and are meant to be inseparable.

There have been times in ministry when I have screamed to God, why are we not getting the help we need? Where are the helpers in the body of Christ? I have asked people point blank, will you please help with this ministry or that ministry. Some have answered, “that’s not my area of giftedness.” What are your gifts then? I wanted to find a place to plug them in. “I don’t know”. Was the reply. In other words, “I have no idea what my gifts are, but I’m pretty sure its not in the area that you are asking me to help”.

Some people never identify or discover their spiritual gifts, because they never give themselves fully to the work of the Lord, nor surrender to His plan and calling. They are looking for what they want to do, not for how God wants to use them.

<p><b>1Cor. 15:58</b> ESV Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.</p>
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This is true, whether you ever identify your spiritual gifts or not. As we are surrendered to His call and as we are serving Him faithfully, God will move you into the direction that He wants to take you and He will begin using you as He wants to use you.

In Isaiah ch.6 – Isaiah has just experienced a life changing, vision impairing, dream shattering, ministry illuminating vision of a holy God. God cleanses Isaiah and then God allows Isaiah to hear a

conversation in heaven – assumedly between the divine Trinity – and here it is.

**Isa 6:8** ESV And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

Then Isaiah, said, “***Not me Lord***, for that’s not my area of giftedness.” Of course NOT!

It really sounds absurd when we hear it like that. Instead, Isaiah said, “here am I Lord, send me”. It was/is not an issue of gifts. It should not an issue of taking a survey to tell you what only God can reveal to you. Isaiah is simply made aware of the ***need***. And Isaiah says, “I’m willing. I’ll respond. I’ll obey and Go.”

“Sometimes the need is as good as a call.”

**1Thes. 5:24** MKJV “Faithful is He who called you, who also will do it.”

**Closing Prayer** for:

**1) Seeking God’s calling** and direction

**2) Surrendering to God’s call** and purpose and plan and direction, whether you know what that is or not.

**3) Serving Christ where you are**, not waiting for a vision, or revelation or identification of a gift. Be actively serving Christ in the local church and He will direct and use and reveal what you need to know. and where you need to go, if anywhere.

When we do this, the spiritual garden of our lives, will begin to grow and develop and bloom in ways you had not considered. But like any garden it will take time. Be patient, as the Master Gardener is working in the garden of your life.



# “Identifying and Discovering the *FRUIT* of the Spirit”

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**Text:** Galatians 5:16-25

Jan. 3, 10, 2015

“If we live by the Spirit, let us also  
keep in step with the Spirit.”  
—Galatians 5:25

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Even when folks are hitting you over the head, you can't stop  
marching. Even when they're turning the hoses on you, you can't  
stop.  
—Barack Obama

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## **NOW WE TRANSITION -- TO FOCUS ON THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

### **[READ]**

**Gal. 5:16-26** ESV (16) But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (17) For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. (18) But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (19) Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, (20) idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, (21) envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things

like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (24) And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (25) If we live by the Spirit, let us **also keep in step with the Spirit**. (26) Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

## INTRODUCTION

I'm wondering how many of us here made New Year's resolutions? I thought it would be interesting to do an internet search on the Top 10 New Year's Resolutions of **2015**. Some of the top resolutions were:

- (1) lose weight                      (2) Quit smoking                      (3) Reduce Stress
- (4) exercise more                      (5) learn something new                      (6) eat healthier
- (7) save more or spend less

Then I began to wonder how those compared to the top New Year's resolutions for **2014**. So I did a search for 2014 resolutions and some of them were:

- (1) lose weight                      (2) Quit smoking                      (3) Reduce Stress
- (4) exercise more                      (5) learn something new                      (6) eat healthier
- (7) save more or spend less

Sometimes I think New Year's resolutions are more traditional than intentional. Today, I'd like us to consider a New Year's resolution that somehow includes the pursuit and manifestation of "the fruit of the Spirit" in our lives. Perhaps we might focus on seeking God in a way that invites Him to cultivate His Holy Spirit fruit in the garden of our lives.

Remember: The Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit are a Match made in Heaven. Spiritual Gifts, affect our ministry, while Spiritual Fruit affect our character. Gifts and Fruit work together.

Ministry and Character are both to be governed by the Holy Spirit and should be inseparably linked.

While we are often interested in identifying our spiritual gifts, we are typically less interested in identifying our spiritual fruit. These Holy Spirit traits, or fruit in us, should reflect the holiness of God's Spirit living in us.

Our life is like a garden:      “Let it Grow, let it Grow, let it Grow”  
(to the tune of      “Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.”      )

Question: How Does Your Garden Grow?

A few verses to begin with pertaining to the theme of gardening and spiritual growth.

You reap what you sow

**2Cor 9:6** ESV The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

**Gal 6:7-9** ESV Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. (8) For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (9) And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Today we turn our attention toward identifying the Fruit of the Spirit in the garden of our lives.

## THE IDENTIFICATION OF FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

\* We begin with some miraculous and supernatural “signs” in the garden of our life. When we think of miraculous and supernatural, we typically think of the “sign” gifts of the Spirit. But today we are considering the “sign” fruit of the Spirit. Spiritual fruit is the



miraculous, supernatural signs of spiritual growth and evidence of maturity.

**Gal.5:22-26** (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (24) And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (25) If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. (26) Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

### **Fruit of the Spirit is...**

\* Life changing character, forging Christlikeness and reflecting the work of the Indwelling Spirit of God's Holiness.

“<sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control.”  
(Galatians 5)

Each of these is a characteristic of the Holy Spirit's active presence in our daily activities. Let's look at each one and ask some diagnostic questions to make sure we're spiritually healthy.

So let's see what we can identify in our garden.

[descriptions are taken from [www.familylife.com](http://www.familylife.com)]

**1. Love.** This word for love doesn't refer to warm feelings but to a deliberate attitude of good will and devotion to others. Love gives freely without looking at whether the other person deserves it, and it gives without expecting anything back. This then is the holy LOVE from God reflected in the garden of our lives.

*Reflection Question:* Am I motivated to do for others as Christ has done for me, or am I giving in order to receive something in return?

**PRAYER:** Lord, Let your holy love grow, in the garden of my life. “Let it Grow! Let it Grow! Let it Grow!”

**2. Joy.** Unlike happiness, joy is gladness that is completely independent of the good or bad things that happen in the course of the day. In fact, joy denotes a supernatural gladness given by God’s Spirit that actually seems to show up best during hard times. This is a product of fixing your focus on God’s purposes for the events in your life rather than on the circumstances [themselves]. This then, is the holy Joy of God Himself, reflected in my attitude, as it grows in me.

*Reflection Question:* Am I experiencing a joy of life on a regular basis, or is my happiness dependent on things going smoothly in my day?

**PRAYER:** Lord, Let your holy Joy bloom in the garden of my life. “Let it Grow! Let it Grow! Let it Grow!”

**3. Peace.** It’s not the absence of turmoil, but the presence of tranquility even while in a place of chaos. It is a sense of wholeness and completeness that is content knowing that God controls the events of the day. This is the supernatural manifestation of stability and calm, in the midst of the storms raging all around us.

*Reflection Question:* Do I find myself frazzled by the crashing waves of turmoil in my life, or am I experiencing “the peace that surpasses all comprehension” (Philippians 4:6-7)?

**PRAYER:** Lord, let your holy Peace, grow up and bear fruit in me. “Let it Grow! Let it Grow! Let it Grow!”

\* So we begin with some miraculous and supernatural “signs” in the garden of our life. These are not referring to “sign” gifts, but “sign” fruit – that is the miraculous and supernatural “signs” of fruit or spiritual growth and evidence of maturity.

The Gifts and Fruit of the Spirit, are all about God doing in us what we can't do without Him. And it's about God changing us, in ways that we can't begin to change ourselves.

When we consider the fruit of the Spirit, as in "love your enemies", or "bless those who curse you", and respond with, "I can't do that", I want to say that is exactly right, we can't. That is why it is called the fruit of the Spirit, and not the fruit of [your name here].

"I can't do that", is often an excuse we use to keep us from having to do something we simply don't want to do, or to keep from changing something we'd rather not have to change.

"I can't do that" or "I can't become that" is not inaccurate, but it is incomplete. IT is a statement or confession of personal weakness. "I can't do that" is not inaccurate, but it is incomplete. In order to make it complete, this must become our declaration: *"I can't do that, but God CAN!"* *"I can't become that, but God CAN change me into whatever pleases Him."*

This is what the Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit are all about – God's Spirit of Holiness, living in us, working through us, manifesting His holy life through us, transforming us so that we prove that indeed, "I truly can't do that, ***but God certainly and by all means CAN!***"

This is all about God giving us what we don't have and doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

<p><sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control." (Galatians 5)</p>
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Galatians chapter 5, picking up in v22.

**4. the Spiritual Fruit of Patience.** Other words that describe this fruit are lenience, long-suffering, forbearance, perseverance, and steadfastness. It is the ability to endure ill treatment from life or at the hands of others without lashing out or paying back. "Oh I can't do that." Exactly right, which is

why it is the fruit of the Spirit, rather than a work of our human ability.

Things that try our patience are frustrating people, and fearful circumstances. We think “I can’t do this”. But this may be just the area in which God wants to change us and to cause us to grow.

Patience, as the fruit of the Spirit, would be a holy, supernatural, abnormal ability to endure frustrating or troubling circumstances with a heart of faith and a demonstration of stability, that affects or perhaps infects others.

*Reflection Question:* Am I easily set off when things go wrong or people irritate me, or am I able to keep a godly perspective in the face of life’s irritations?

**PRAYER:** Lord I need your holy patience to be formed in me.

“Let it Grow! Let it Grow! Let it Grow!”

**5. the fruit of holy Kindness.** When kindness is at work in a person’s life, he or she looks for ways to adapt to meet the needs of others. It is moral goodness that overflows. It’s also the absence of malice. This reflects the holiness and evidence of God’s Spirit in our attitudes, actions and treatment of others.

This is not merely an attitude, but a manifestation of the Holy Spirit governing and controlling our response to others.

*Reflection Question:* Is it my goal to serve others with kindness, or am I too focused on my own needs, desires or problems to let the goodness of God overflow to others?

**PRAYER:** Oh Lord, let your holy Kindness grow up in the garden of my life. “Let it Grow! Let it Grow! Let it Grow!”

**6. Goodness.** While kindness is the soft side of good, goodness reflects the [overall] character of God. Goodness in you desires to see goodness in others and is not beyond confronting or even rebuking (as Jesus did with the money changers in the temple) for that to happen. This reflects the

character of God in our overall concerns for the well-being of others.

*Reflection Question:* Does my life reflect the holiness of God, and do I desire to see others experience God at a deep level in their own lives?

**PRAYER:** Lord, cause holy Goodness, from the Spirit of Holiness grow in the garden of my life and bear much fruit for Your own glory. “Let it Grow! Let it Grow! Let it Grow!”

**7. Faithfulness.** A faithful person is one with real integrity. He or she is someone others can look to as an example, and someone who is truly devoted to others and to Christ. Our natural self [typically] wants to be in charge, but Spirit-controlled faithfulness is evident in the life of a person who seeks good for others and glory for God. This reflects the holy steadfastness and unchangeable nature of our holy God. Faithfulness.

*Reflection Question:* Are there areas of hypocrisy and indifference toward others in my life, or is my life characterized by faith in Christ and faithfulness to those around me? Is my attitude typically one of stability, consistency, while enduring the changing people and environment around me?

**PRAYER:** Holy Father, please allow your holy Faithfulness to be manifest in my life, that I might affect others faithfully.

“Let it Grow! Let it Grow! Let it Grow!”

**8. Gentleness.** Meekness is not weakness. Gentleness is not without power, it just chooses to defer to others. It forgives others, corrects with kindness, and lives in tranquility.

*Reflection Question:* Do I come across to others as brash and headstrong, or am I allowing the grace of God to flow through me to others?

**PRAYER:** Lord, let your holy Gentleness flow out of me, as it flows out of You, living in me.

“Let it Grow! Let it Grow! Let it Grow!”

**9. Self-control.** Our fleshly desires [and emotional responses], Scripture tells us, are continually at odds with God’s Spirit and [often] want to be in charge. Self-control is literally releasing our grip on the fleshly desires, choosing instead to be controlled by the Holy Spirit [and obey God’s Word]. It is power focused in the right place.

Self-control is the supernatural ability to live holy lives under the control of the Spirit of Holiness Himself.

*Reflection Question:* Are my fleshly desires controlling my life, or am I allowing the Spirit to direct me to the things that please God and serve others?

**PRAYER:** Lord, please control me, my attitudes and my behavior, that You might be seen in me and that You would be able to affect others, through Your Spiritual fruit present in my life. “Let it Grow! Let it Grow! Let it Grow!”

### **So regarding Evidences of the Fruit...**

\* The Church community will help identify and confirm your fruit, just as it should with your gifts. Gifts and Fruit – confirmation by the church community is crucial. We simply cannot evaluate ourselves accurately, without the confirmation of the body of Christ, the church.

The ***Fruit of the Spirit*** are ways God is changing and growing us.

They are evidence of Godly maturity and Christ-like character. They demonstrate the HS of God living in us and working through us. They are how we are to treat and relate to others. They are dependent upon the filling and controlling of the HS (Eph.5:18)

The purpose of the ***Fruit of the Spirit*** is to demonstrate the depths of control, of the HS in the life of the believing Christian. (Eph.5:18)

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BEAR FRUIT?

\* **Fruit** = miraculous, supernatural “signs” of spiritual growth and evidence of mature, holy character. This is holy character that manifests itself in my life, which in turn positively affects others.

What does it really mean to bear fruit? John 5:18

### **Bearing Spiritual Fruit is evidence of mature Spiritual character**

**Fruit** is the manner or context in which our gifts are exercised or displayed. Spiritual Fruit are the results of the Holy Spirit working in us and changing our inner nature, in order to increase our

Christ-likeness is growing into an increased level of holiness, while developing His divine character in us.



## What does it mean to bear fruit?

(1) **Bearing Fruit means** there is evidence in our lives, that is, actions, attitudes, treatment of others – that the Spirit of Holiness within us, is actually controlling us, and evidencing His holiness through our actions, attitudes and treatment of others.

It means evidencing character like Christ's character and it means ministering as Christ ministered. It means involvement in ministry and sharing His heart, his passion and his purpose.

It means being changed more into the likeness of Jesus.

(2) **Bearing Fruit** means some level of faithfulness, and productivity in ministry. Obedience which leads to and manifests itself in, obeying the Father's plan and making disciples for Jesus. That has to be part of the mix and the end result.

## BALANCING THE OF GIFTS AND FRUIT

1) Everywhere the Gifts of the Spirit are addressed, they are mentioned in conjunction with some of the fruit of the Spirit. Paul brings up the misuse of the Gifts, while preceding that rebuke and following up that rebuke, that with instruction in those gifts of the Spirit being balanced with some fruit of the Spirit.

*Fruit*

*Fruit*

*Fruit*

**GIFTS**

**GIFTS**

**GIFTS**

*Fruit*

*Fruit*

*Fruit*

Why does Paul do this? Because the Gifts of the Spirit and the Fruit of the Spirit are a match made in heaven and are to be married together and inseparably linked.

## The Working of Fruit

**1Cor. 14:1** ESV Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.



**Jer 17:7-8** ESV "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. (8) He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to **bear fruit**.

**Luk 3:9** ESV Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good **fruit** is cut down and thrown into the fire.

**Luk 8:14** ESV And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their **fruit** does not mature.

**Php 1:11** ESV filled with the **fruit** of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

**Col 1:10** ESV so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing **fruit** in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

**Heb 12:11** ESV For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful **fruit** of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

## Balancing Gifts and Fruit

\* Certain gifts can be complimented by other gifts, and certain gifts of the Spirit should be balanced with certain Fruit of the Spirit.

**GIFT OF PROPHECY** – Fruit of Love – “speak truth in love

**Eph 4:15-16** ESV Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, (16) from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working **properly**, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

\* Consider the Spiritual Fruit and Gifts Comparison chart below.

## GIFTS = Holy Spirit Uses

Romans 12

Prophecy<sup>v6</sup>

Service<sup>v7</sup>

Teaching<sup>v7</sup>

Exhort<sup>v8</sup> (comfort)

Giving<sup>v8</sup>

Leading<sup>v8</sup>

Mercy<sup>v8</sup>

1 Corinthians

Word of knowledge<sup>v8</sup>

Word of wisdom<sup>v8</sup>

Gift of Faith<sup>v9</sup>

Gifts of healing<sup>v9</sup>

Working of miracles<sup>v10</sup>

Prophecy<sup>v10</sup>

Discernment of Spirits<sup>v12</sup>

Kinds of tongues<sup>v10</sup>

Interpretation of Tongues<sup>v10</sup>

Apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, healing,  
helping, administering, tongues<sup>v28</sup>

## FRUIT = HOLY SPIRIT LIKENESS

Gal 5:22-23 ESV

v.22) But the fruit of the Spirit is

Love,

Joy,

Peace,

Patience,

Kindness,

Goodness,

Faithfulness,

v.23) Gentleness,

Self-control;

There is the garden of life – growing, working together appropriately – balancing one another – gifts and fruit working together, inseparably linked together, and balancing one another, with ministry and character.

**GIFT OF TONGUES** – Fruit of self-control – “God not a God of disorder.

**1Co 14:32-33** ESV and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. (33) For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints,

The **GIFT** of Giving can be balanced with the Fruit of Joy

**2Co 9:6-7** ESV The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. (7) Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

As you can see in the chart above, the gift of prophecy might also be complimented with the gift of the “word of Wisdom”.

**The HS wants to fill us and control us and use us for His glory.** And He desires to control us and evidence His holy character in us through this entire process. I’m hoping you can see how certain gifts can be complimented by other gifts, and certain **GIFTS** of the Spirit should be balanced with certain **FRUIT** of the Spirit. It really is “a match Made in heaven!”

### **ASSIGNMENT:**

**1)** You want to identify and confirm you spiritual Gifts and Fruit? Be actively participating in some area of ministry in the church. The ask those around you, what they perceive your Gifts and/or Fruit to be.

**2)** You want to identify and confirm your spiritual fruit or maturity? Ask those around you in the church. You’ll need to ask someone whom you trust. You will need to assure them that you mean business; that you’re not looking for compliments, but truthful, Spiritual observation, evaluation and input from that person. But it must be someone you trust and someone you clearly

authorize to share this kind of positive, constructive critique with you, and with no one else.

**3)** Then, commit the result of your investigation to prayer, asking God to change what needs to be changed and replace what needs to be replaced with what He wants you to have.

Remember, this is not an issue of curiosity, but an issue of becoming what and who, God wants you to be.

Prayerfully and earnestly ask God:

(1) to fill you with His Holy Spirit. This is not something you have to fear, it is only submitting to God and inviting the Spirit of Holiness to fill or control you as He desires.

(2) to stir up your gifts and calling in a way that draws and leads you in the direction which He has chosen for your life and for your future in His hands.

(3) to Grow His Spiritual Fruit in the garden of your life, transforming your life into the likeness of Christ with evidence of His holiness in your attitude, behavior and choices.

(4) to transform you from the top down and from the inside out, into the child of God and servant of Jesus Christ that He deserves.

“<sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control.”  
(Galatians 5)



# “Walking and Living In The Spirit”

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**Series Title:** “*The Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit*” Jan. 17,  
2015

**Text:** Galatians 5:16-25

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“...Walk by the Spirit and you will not gratify  
the desires of the flesh.” - Galatians 5:16

Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative  
altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

## [READ]

**Gal. 5:16-25** ESV (16) But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (17) For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. (18) But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (19) Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, (20) idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries,

dissensions, divisions, (21) envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (24) And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (25) If we live by the Spirit, let us **also keep in step with the Spirit.**

## INTRODUCTION

This week the PowerBall Lottery prize was really high. How High was it??? It was so high, someone said they saw Donald Trump standing in line to buy a lottery ticket. (*uproarious laughter - Ha. Ha. Ha.*)

Speaking of gambling, today we will be looking at what Scripture refers to as Walking in the Spirit.

***The Gifts of the Spirit***, are the outworking manifestations of grace, through the indwelling Spirit of God. Exercising the Gifts of the Spirit is in reference to the manifestation of the Holy Spirit working through us, with the purpose of building up, adding to and bringing maturity to the body of Christ, the Church.

***The Fruit of the Spirit***, is the long-term effect, of the in-working change of character, through which we are molded into the holy likeness of God Himself.

## WALKING IN THE SPIRIT (Gal.5:17-21)

\* This is the life lived under the control of the Holy Spirit. This has been referred to as the war between two worlds, or as Chuck Colson described it - kingdoms that are in conflict.

**2 Cor 5:7** — says we are to “walk by faith”

**Gal 3:11** – urges us to “Live by faith”

**Gal.5:16** – We are to “Walk by the Spirit...” all of these refer to the visual, physical life being lived with unseen, spiritual manifestations.

### **The War** (Gal.5:16-17)

\* There is a war between heaven and Hell – between God and Satan, and between the Spirit and the flesh. If you are not aware of that, then you are probably losing that war. If there are not times in your spiritual life, when you feel like the devil is kicking your teeth in,-- then you are out of touch with what it means to be a Christian and you may already be defeated.

More about that concept of war in a minute. But here, Galatians gives us this instruction.

**Gal. 5:16-17** ESV (16) But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (17) For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

**the FLESH** = the broken, fallen, sinful, human nature and its desires or natural, unrestrained tendencies.

**the SPIRIT** = the control of the Holy Spirit in a Christians life, with the outworking and increasing manifestations of a life of holiness, or separation from sinful manifestations.

**v.16)** If we live a life controlled by the Spirit of Holiness, we will not be living a sinful life controlled by our sinful desires. It's a statement of the obvious for sure and involves the influence and control of the Spirit of Holiness.

The flesh fights to keep you from doing what you desire to do as a true believer, and what the Spirit of Holiness is leading you to do. And the Holy Spirit fights to keep you from doing what you desire to do in the area of life that is still enticed by certain things and in

which you and I still struggle to have victory over. That is the war that Paul is writing about.

Walking the in the spirit is all about being filled with or controlled by the Spirit (Eph.5:18), and as a result, having victory over the attractions of our sinful human desires.

**Eph 5:15-18** ESV (15) Look carefully then how you *walk*, not as unwise but as wise, (16) making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. (17) Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (18) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be *filled* with the Spirit,

Being filled with the Spirit, refers to being controlled by the Spirit. It is living under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. This is not automatic, nor is it accidental. It is Spiritual and it is volitional.

**Col. 2:6** Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so *walk* in him,

**1Jn 2:6** ESV whoever says he abides in him ought to *walk* in the same way in which he *walked*.

“To walk” is living your life, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. This is the contrast between the flesh and the Spirit.

*v.19 highlights...*

### **The Works of the Flesh**

\* The Works or manifestations of our fallen, broken, sinful human nature are many. We will not go through each of these as we did the gifts and the fruit. And, as the gifts and fruit may not have been exhaustive lists, - neither are the works of the flesh listed here, intended to present an exhaustive list – as though these are all of them and there are no more than these.

Notice what Paul says,



**Gal. 5:19-21** ESV (19) Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, (20) idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, (21) envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

V,21) “*and things like these*” or “*and the like*” – indicating that the different demonstrations of the sinful nature ruling a person’s life are as innumerable as the stars in the sky, and are as varied and individual as we are.

**1Jn 2:15-17** ESV Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world--the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life--is not from the Father but is from the world.

Scripture agrees with Scripture, that the natural propensity for our human desires tend to lead us into a variety of sinful manifestations, as we are given in this passage. Paul mentions quite a list, but ends the list with “and the like”, in order to simply save time and paper. It provides an overflow category for all other sins not mentioned here.

*So how does the flesh and Spirit in a person relate?*

## **THE WAR BETWEEN SPIRIT AND FLESH** (Gal.5:19-21)

The Indwelling Spirit of Holiness, desire personal holiness from those whom He indwells. However, our fleshly human nature desires sinful indulgencies and satisfaction of all physical and sensual kinds. Our sinfulness is at war with God’s holiness and God’s holiness is at war with our own sinfulness.

*Back to the...*

## **The Works of the flesh**

These are the outward manifestations of our broken fallen sinful human nature. *Again...*

**Gal. 5:19-21** ESV (19) Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, (20) idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, (21) envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The works are “evident” or manifest; they are abundantly apparent and clearly revealed; they are shining; can’t miss them. Consider John’s use of the same word.

**Joh 1:5** ESV The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

When John wrote of Jesus being the LIGHT and SHINING, in the darkness, he uses the same word as Paul uses to describe the evidence of the sinful nature ruling and controlling a person’s life. Our sinful nature shines, so to speak, and is clearly evident and abundantly apparent, therefore producing war between our desires and God’s desires.

The works of the flesh are opposed to or in contrast to the fruit of the Spirit. If we are walking in the Spirit[v16] then we will be evidencing the Fruit of the Spirit.

### **The Fruit of the Spirit** (Gal.22-23)

**Gal.5:22-23** (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law . \* These are attitudes, character traits, behavioral practices and lifestyle examples of a true believer’s life, being controlled or influenced by the Holy Spirit, resulting in the character and nature of God Himself being reflected in our own life and actions.

These are attitudes, character traits, behavioral practices and lifestyle examples of a true believer’s life which is controlled or

influenced by the Spirit of Holiness, resulting in the character and nature of God Himself being reflected in our own **A**ttitude, **B**ehavior and **C**hoices.

Some ask, why doesn't Paul spend more time addressing the Fruit of the Spirit like he did the Gifts? Because the gifts were being misused, and abused in the church. The Fruit of the Spirit, on the other hand – well its hard to misuse peace, joy, and gentleness and love.

So, the War is that when a person is under the control of the works of the flesh, in vs 19-21, his or her lifestyle is at war with, or is opposing the intended control of the Holy Spirit, which should be resulting in the Fruit of the Spirit.[v.22-13]

Likewise, when the Holy Spirit is ruling and reigning in a person's life, the Fruit or evidence of the Spirit will be just as apparent and unmistakable, and also opposes and seeks to overcome the works of the fleshly, broken, fallen, sinful, human nature.

So the Works of the Flesh are at war with the Fruit of the Spirit, because the Indwelling Spirit of Holiness is opposed to or is at war with our own broken, fallen, sinful, human nature. And as is the case of every human being, something needs to change.

### **ASSIGNMENT:**

Walking in the Spirit also refers to:

- 1) Resolution of the Mind – “this is what I must do”.
- 2) Petition to God – “This is where my help must come from.”
- 3) Volition to obey – “This is the choice I must make.”
- 4) Transformation toward holiness – “This is what God deserves and the direction I must be heading in.”



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# “Walking in the Spirit and Living the Transformed Life”

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**Series Title:** “*The Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit*” Jan. 24, 2015

**Text:** Galatians 5:16-25; 2:20

**Title:** “The Living Dead”

**COMMUNION**

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“I am crucified with Christ...”  
- Galatians 5:16

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“When Christ calls a man, He bids him  
Come and die.”

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## D.BONHOEFFER’S QUOTE IN IT’S CONTEXT:

The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ-suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world. It is that dying of the old man which is the result of his encounter with Christ. As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with his death—we give over our lives to death. Thus it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise god-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. **When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.** It may be a death like that of the first disciples who had to leave home and work to follow him, or it may be a death like

Luther's, who had to leave the monastery and go out into the world. But it is the same death every time—death in Jesus Christ, the death of the old man at his call. (*The Cost of Discipleship*, 99)

-D.Bonhoeffer, Hanged, April 9, 2009

[READ]

**Gal. 5:16-25** ESV (16) But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (17) For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. (18) But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (19) Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, (20) idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, (21) envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (24) And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (25) If we live by the Spirit, let us **also keep in step with the Spirit**.

**Review from last week:**

Walking in the Spirit also refers to:

- 1) Resolution of the Mind – “this is what I must do”.
- 2) Petition to God – “This is where my help must come from.”
- 3) Volition to obey – “This is the choice I must make.”
- 4) Transformation toward holiness – “This is what God deserves and the direction I must be heading in.”

## INTRODUCTION

Walking in the Spirit refers to living a life controlled by the Holy Spirit, rather than controlled by the sinful nature and desires, referred to as *the flesh*. This ultimately will result in an increased change of our ABCs, that is our **A**ttitudes, **B**ehavior and our **C**hoices.

Scripture refers to the Christian life as being like a soldier. A Soldier learns discipline. It takes work and sacrifice. It must be a goal or intended result that he or she keeps in mind. They have to strive toward achieving discipline. Also like an athlete. An athlete doesn't wake one morning as an athlete. It is not accidental nor is it automatic. Becoming a good athlete, also requires much work, sacrifice, self-control and discipline. So does, learning to walk in or live by the Spirit.

## WALKING IN THE SPIRIT *and the Transformed Life*

*Walking In the Spirit...*

*What is the intended result? What is the desired outcome?*

\* Walking in the Spirit is not about having won the battle, but about fighting daily to put the sinful desires to death.

This involves the gifts of the Spirit and how we serve Christ and others. It involves the fruit of the Spirit which balances our fruit and affects how we impact others in the body of Christ.

This also involves a gradually increasing transformation of our ABCs, with an ever increasing control of the Holy Spirit and decreasing control of the desires of our fleshly nature.

*Walking in the Spirit refers to...*

## The Increasing Fruit of personal holiness

\* This must come from the Indwelling Spirit of Holiness, living in us, manifesting His presence through us, and transforming us from the inside out.

**Gal. 5:16** ESV But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

**Gal.5:25** ESV If we live by the Spirit, let us **also keep in step with the Spirit**.

v.25) to “Live by the Spirit” is in reference to the physical, biological, earthly life we have as humans.

But to keep in step with the Spirit is directly related to the Spiritual life we live out and the Spiritual character or fruit we evidence.

“To walk or “*keep in step with the Spirit*” is in direct *contrast* to the sinful physical life.

**Jamieson, Faussett and Brown Commentary:** “If we live BY the Spirit ([Gal 5:25](#)), let us also walk BY the Spirit. ([Gal 5:16](#))” Let our life in practice correspond to the ideal inner principle of our spiritual life, namely, our standing by faith as dead to, and severed from, sin, and the condemnation of the law. “Life by (or ‘in’) the Spirit” is not an occasional influence of the Spirit, but an abiding state, wherein we are continually alive, though sometimes sleeping and inactive.

In other words, being filled with the Spirit, living by the Spirit, or walking in the Spirit, is not a one-time event, but an ongoing battle, of the Spirit of God in us, fighting against the leftover sinful nature within us. Being filled and controlled by the Spirit is not a destination we arrive at, but a process we fight through – and it continues until we step into eternity.

*Compare..*

**1Jn 2:6** ESV whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

This battle continues to rage within us, not because the flesh is too strong, or because the Holy Spirit is too weak; but because of the one we choose to submit ourselves to. This is the battle of our will.

*Walking in the Spirit refers to...*

## **The Dying to Personal Sinful desires**

\* This is the Living Dead and involves understanding our standing before God, positionally, and our standing before God, practically

**Gal. 5:24** ESV (24) And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires

**Gal 2:20** ESV I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**“Many Christians wear a cross. Few are willing to nail themselves to it.” – Joe Warsak, Seek First Ministries**

Positionally, when Christ died on the cross, it is as though we died. As His flesh died, it is as though we have died as the penalty for our own sin. Practically however, we still spend the rest of our lives living that out, being increasingly purified day by day, as the Spirit within us, is at war against the sinful desires within us.

Dying to our personal sinful desires, should result in increased control of the Holy Spirit over our ABCs.

In the book of Galatians: Flesh is referred to 14x; Spirit 18x; Works 8x; Fruit is mentioned only once. Sowing is referenced 3x; and reaping 4x. All of these are referring to the gardening work of God in the spiritual garden of our lives.

*Walking in the Spirit refers to...*

## **The Intended Result for All Christians**

\* Some people hold onto labels, as though there will be labels in heaven. Religions, denominations, political parties, doctrinal positions, never changing, even though Scripture might state otherwise.



“This is the category I grew up in - this is the category I will die in.” This is what it boils down to. This is the bottom line; **AM I BECOMING THE KIND OF PERSON GOD WANTS ME TO BECOME?**

Am I fighting the war against my sinful nature? Am I increasing in personal holiness? Is the Spirit in me, winning more than the sinful nature in me?

**(1) Walking in the Spirit** refers to the supernatural change of the natural person, which is God’s intent for every Christian.

**Rom 8:28-29** ESV And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (29) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

To be *conformed* refers to becoming more like the image of Christ.

**(2) Walking in the Spirit** also refers to the Spirit of God *transforming* us into kind of person He wants us to become. (Rom.12:1-2)

**Rom 12:1-2** ESV I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (2) Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Being *transformed*, refers to becoming something totally different. It indicates a metamorphosis that takes place making a caterpillar into a butterfly. So is our change by the Spirit, from who we have been into the person we are intended to become.

## **1 MONSTEROUS ENEMY** with 3 poisonous heads

\* We must know and acknowledge our enemy.

**The world is the enemy presented here.**

**1Jn 2:12-18** ESV I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. (13) I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. (14) I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. (15) Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world--the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life--is not from the Father but is from the world. (17) And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (18) Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.

The *world* is mentioned 6 times.

**Joh 3:16** ESV "For God so loved the **WORLD**, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

\* The Bible frequently uses "the world" or "this world" to refer to the present evil system of opposition to God. So, the Bible never teaches that Satan actually rules over the entire world, but that he is ruler over the current system of sinful opposition to God. In other words, he's leading the rebellion against God. (Colin Smith, *Unlocking The Bible*)

The world, is that system, influence, spiritual beings, and people who are opposed to God and Christ. The devil only has authority over those who voluntarily submit themselves to Him and in so doing, deny and reject God, and Christ.

**2Co 4:4** ESV In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the

gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

**1Jn 5:19** ESV We know that we are from God, **and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.**

We might say that Satan is by default, the “god” of all those who reject God. The only reason Satan is the god of this world is because these unbelievers willingly obey and accept all Satan presents to them.

In Job – Satan is subordinate to and absolutely subservient to Almighty God. In Revelation ch.11 & 12, Satan is fully and completely powerless to do anything unless God gives power to him, in order to use him to control him, to accomplish His purposes through him.

It is God who sends out His holy Angels, with the 7 scrolls. It is God who authorizes the 4 horsemen of the apocalypse to go out into all the earth and fulfill their mission for their Master, God.

It is God who issues calls for the 7 trumpets to sound which announces and seems to control all forces and powers in existence. And it is God Supreme, who is pouring out his bowls of wrath upon all God rejecting, unrepentant humanity.

It is God’s angel in Rev.21, who, by the way, is unnamed and simply identified as “an angel from heaven” comes to earth and takes hold of Satan and casts him into the pit for 1,000 years. It is God who keeps Satan there during that time. It is God who allows Satan to be set free for a “time” – so long and not more, to accomplish the purpose and plan of almighty God.

It was Martin Luther who said “Satan is the devil, but he is God’s devil.”

**The lust of the flesh** (v16 - *Poisonous head #1*)

\* The flesh is the *lust factory* of our human nature.

**Eph 2:1-5** ESV And you were dead in the trespasses and sins (2) in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- (3) among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (4) But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved--

Christ's death should be motivation for true believers to live differently. The idea is that the true believer used to live like all the rest of sinful humanity, but now in Christ, we much choose to live differently.

**1Jn 2:12-13** ESV I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. (13) I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

Christians who live according to the flesh, evidence the war between the flesh and the Spirit. And this is also evidence of submitting to the lustful, sinful fleshly desires of our fallen human nature.

### **The lust of the eyes** (v16 - *Poisonous head #2*)

\* The lust of the eyes is *window shopping* for the sinful flesh. It refers to the things we desire. "love not the world, nor the things of the world".(1Jn.2:15)

**Rom 8:4-13** ESV in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (5) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. (6) For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the

**mind** on the Spirit is life and peace. (7) For the **mind** that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. (8) Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (9) You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (10) But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (11) If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. (12) So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. (13) For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

The mind is referred to 5 times. Flesh is the lust factory and the eyes are the window shopping which takes in the things we may lust after. IT comes into our head through our eyes and it lodges in our mind. Therein is the food for lust and the intake stimulus for the lust factory.

But what Christ has done for us should be motivation for us to live differently and to fight against our sinful desires in order that the Holy Spirit may control us more and more and the flesh would control us less and less.

### **The Pride of life** (v16 -- *Poisonous head #3*)

\* The heart and spirit of Satan himself. This is the lust for self – for self-pursuits, self-interests, self-desires, self-promotion and self-aggrandizement.

We are free from the authority and domination of Satan. But we are not free from his effects, attacks, temptations, strategies, and desire to destroy us. Pride is the heart and spirit of the devil himself and is one more head of our monstrous enemy of the World.

**Joh 16:33** I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In **the world** you will have tribulation. But take heart; **I have overcome the world.**"

**1Jn 4:4** Little children, you are from God and have **overcome** them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in **the world**.

**1Jn 5:4** For **everyone** who has been born of God **overcomes the world**. And this is **the** victory that has **overcome the world**—our faith.

If you are a true believer in Jesus Christ, then you have been purchased out of enemy domain and are free from his possession. If you are living like the world is living, then (1) you still belong to the world and are under the authority and rule of Satan or (2) If you are a Christian living a continuously disobedient life, then you may be just as bad off as an unbeliever.

I can't say you are not a true child of God. But I must say, you will not get away with living apart from God's will in your life and that your life of willful sinfulness, still violates God's holiness.

In closing this series of the Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit we have these assignments.

### **ASSIGNMENT:**

**(1) Review the Fruit of the Spirit list.** In our heart, we must declare all-out war on anything in your life that is not in line with the fruit of the Holy Spirit or may resemble the works of the flesh. Measure this according to Holy Scripture in Gal.5:16-25.

When we follow the Spirit's lead<sup>[v18]</sup> instead of being led by our self-focused desires, He produces the fruit. Walking by the Spirit, means Christ-like character which is growing, [therefore] evidencing these "fruit" in increasing measure.

But even when we don't walk by the Spirit, He is the very one who convicts us that things are not in proper order in our lives.

God promises that if we are willing to admit that we have been walking our own way and ask for His forgiveness and cleansing,

He will empower us through His Spirit to live above ourselves and live the abundant life for which He has created us and to fill us again with His Spirit of holiness.

**(2) Ask yourself::** Am I actively depending on and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide me in God's ways so I don't get wrapped up in my own ways?

If not, then am I willing to confess to God that His ways are better than mine, and that I need the Spirit's guidance to live the Spirit filled life?

**(3) Do I consider myself crucified with Christ** and am I daily fighting to allow His Spirit of Holiness to fill me, control me and evidence His own holiness in my attitudes, behavior and choices?

**Luk 9:23** ESV And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

**(4) Are you regularly submitting to the Holy Spirit of God** to work in you, His purifying and transforming work?

The Filling of the Holy Spirit, will have the same result as living under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. While slightly different concepts, the result should be the same.

i. Invite the Spirit of Holiness to fill you completely – to control you fully.

ii. Confess that Jesus is Your personal LORD and allow Him and His holy Word to give guidance and fullness to your life.



# ***Don't close this booklet yet***

*without considering this all important question.*

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## **Is Jesus Christ the Savior of *your* soul and the Lord of *your* life?**

Every person is born guilty of sin and in need of forgiveness.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;  
--Romans 3:23

Our sin is against God, therefore our forgiveness can only come  
from God.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only  
begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should  
not perish, but have everlasting life. --John 3:16

God has appointed His Son as the payment for sins and sent Him  
to die in our place.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is  
eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
-- Romans 6:23

God's love is demonstrated through the sacrificial payment of  
Jesus Christ in our place for our sins.

...but God shows his love for us in that while we were  
still sinners, Christ died for us. ---Romans 5:8

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord  
will be saved." -- Rom 10:13

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his  
name, he gave the right to become children of God, -  
John 1:12

Before you close this book, why not be absolutely certain that you  
are truly a citizen of God's eternal kingdom and loving family?

*Trust in Jesus Christ today and receive forgiveness for your sins  
and citizenship into God's family and His Kingdom.*



### The ABCs

**A** - Admit you have sinned and are in need of a Savior.

**B** - Believe Jesus died in your place, and you can no way help yourself.

**C** - Confess your sins to God. He already knows. Also Confess Jesus as you LORD. He desires and deserves to be your Lord.

**Prayer**: Take time to talk to God right now and open your heart and life to His instruction and leadership.

**Connect** with a local Bible believing, Christ centered church.

**Commit** yourself to meeting regularly with other Christians who are growing in their faith.

**Heb 10:24-25** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

**Act 2:41-42** So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (42) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

For more information or for spiritual help, please contact us at:  
Christ E. Free Church, PO Box 619, 19682 Hill Rd,  
Saegertown, Pa, 16433, Ph: 814-763-2934, [www.christefca.org](http://www.christefca.org)

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*It is our prayer that you find **Jesus Christ** to be...  
your highest calling,  
your greatest purpose,  
your soul's source and joy,  
and your all-consuming passion.*

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*May each lesson bring a growing submission, a deeper obedience  
and an increase of the righteous reign of the Lordship of Jesus  
Christ in the fullness of His Spirit, in His Church and throughout  
our mission field.*

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