

Who is the Holy Spirit? Pt 3 (09/11/14)

Recap of 28/09/14 sermon

Who is the Holy Spirit? Holy Spirit is a Person. Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead.

Prophet Isaiah listed 7 distinct aspect of the Holy Spirit:

- 1) The Spirit of the Lord
- 2) The Spirit of Wisdom
- 3) The Spirit of Understanding
- 4) The Spirit of Counsel
- 5) The Spirit of Might
- 6) The Spirit of Knowledge
- 7) The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord

Some of the many titles given in scripture to the Holy Spirit is

- a) The Spirit of Grace (Hebrew 10:29)
- b) The Spirit of Glory (1 Peter 4:14)
- c) The Spirit of Truth (John 14:16, 17)

In every stage of redemption each Person of the Godhead played a unique and distinctive part as indicated below:

- 1) The conception of Jesus
- 2) The beginning of the ministry of Jesus
- 3) The ongoing ministry of Jesus
- 4) The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross
- 5) The resurrection of Jesus
- 6) The Pentecost

God the Holy Spirit has the same characteristic as God the Father and Son:

- Eternal
- Omnipotent (all powerful)
- Omniscient (all knowing – knows ALL things) and
- Omnipresent (all presence – present everywhere at the same time)

Scriptures reveal to us that the Holy Spirit

- A) **He is Holy**

- B) **A Humble, Self-effacing Servant.**

This is beautifully illustrated in Genesis 24 which describes how Abraham went about obtaining a bride for his son, Isaac. There are four (4) “types” in this account.

Abraham is a type of God the Father; Isaac is a type of God’s Son, Jesus; Rebecca is a type of the bride of Christ, the Church. Abraham’s servant is a type of the Holy Spirit. Although never given a name, he is the main character of this story.

As a servant, he had one supreme objective – to find the young woman who was to be the bride; to equip and adorn her; and to escort her safely to the bridegroom.

It is for the similar purpose that the Holy Spirit came down at Pentecost. He is here with one supreme objective – to find, equip and adorn the bride for Christ – the Church (you and I) – and to escort her safely through this world and present Jesus – a pure and spotless bride.

C) **A Consuming Fire**

One way in which the Holy Spirit manifest Himself at times is **fire**.

Rev 4:5 (NKJV) – “seven lamps of fire...burning before the throne...of God”

Heb12:29 – “Our God is a consuming fire”

There are two opposite sides to fire. Fire can be beneficial but also dangerous.

Fire can purify but also destroy.

So it is with the fire of the Holy Spirit. He can minister God’s blessing and favor on those who are obedient. But He can also minister God’s wrath and judgment on those who are presumptuous (take things for granted) and self-willed.

First requirement - is to focus on exalting and glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ.

Second requirement - is to carefully follow the directions which the Spirit Himself has transmitted/showed/revealed to us in the scriptures.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Genesis 24

When Abraham sent his servant from Canaan to Padan Aram to seek a bride for his son Isaac, the servant loaded ten camels to take with him.

It is amazing how much can be loaded onto a camel.

The ten camels with their loads were visible evidence that Abraham was an honored and prosperous man. Included in their loads were precious gifts of jewelry. When the servant found the young woman (Rebekah) who was to become Isaac's bride, his first act was to place on her face a very conspicuous nose jewel.

By accepting the gift, Rebekah committed herself to become Isaac's bride. Had she refused the gift, however, she would have rejected and dishonored Isaac. She could never have become his bride.

Today, in a similar way, God has sent His Holy Spirit with abundant provision for the bride of His Son, Jesus – the Church.

Included in it are nine beautiful spiritual gifts, the Church is marked out as the one who is committed to become the bride of Christ.

Nine Supernatural Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

vs 7 – Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good

vs 8 – To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit

vs 9 – to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit.

vs 10 – to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits. to another speaking in different tongues and to still another the interpretation of tongues

vs 11 – All these are the work of one and the same Spirit and he gives them to each one , just as he determines.

These nine gifts are listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. The gifts are:

- 1) Message of wisdom (a word of wisdom)
- 2) Message of knowledge (a word of knowledge)
- 3) Faith
- 4) Gifts of healing
- 5) Miraculous powers (workings of miracles)
- 6) Prophecy
- 7) Distinguishing between spirits (discerning of spirits)
- 8) Speaking in different kinds of tongues (kinds of tongues)
- 9) Interpretation of tongues

These gifts can be grouped into three headings to help us understand them more clearly:

- a) The power gifts – Faith, gifts of healing and miraculous powers (workings of miracles)
- b) The vocal gifts – Prophecy, speaking in different kinds of tongues (kinds of tongues) and interpretation of tongues
- c) The revelation gifts – distinguishing between spirits (discerning of spirits), message of wisdom (a word of wisdom) and message of knowledge (a word of knowledge)

What we need to know about these spiritual gifts?

1. All these gifts are “manifestations”. “Manifest” means “clearly visible”; “manifestation” means “display or disclosure”

The Holy Spirit Himself is invisible, but through these gifts He manifests Himself. He impacts our senses in a way we can see or hear or feel.

(Same as with wind, you cannot see the wind but you can see the manifestation on the wind like the breeze, the tree moving, sound it makes and etc)

2. All of them are “for the common good – NIV” or “for the profit of all -NKJV”. Through them, Christians can minister to one another. They all serve some practical purpose. They are tools NOT toys.

These gifts are given so that the Church of Jesus Christ can be built up. It is done in love when we exercise these gifts in the church.

3. All these gifts are supernatural. They are not a product of natural ability or special education.

An illiterate person may receive a word of wisdom or word of knowledge.

Similarly, the gift of faith goes beyond the faith we all need for salvation. It is also distinct from the fruit of faith which comes by a process of natural growth.

It is supernatural faith that goes beyond our natural ability and produces supernatural results.

I was taught when I was younger that these gifts were withdrawn at the close of the apostolic age (after the death of all of Jesus disciples) and are not available today. Thank God that this is not true. Paul thanks God for the Christians at Corinth because “you do not lack any spiritual gifts as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed” (I Corinthians 1:7).

Obviously, therefore Christians are expected to continue to exercise spiritual gifts until the return of Christ.

4. It must be emphasized that all these are gifts of God’s grace.

They are received by faith. We can never earn them. We can never be “good enough” to exercise them.

Let me share with you what the gifts of the spirit means and how it may be exercise in our lives. (Let me confess that I am a novice in terms of exercising the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I am still learning. I want to share what I know so that you do not have to start from ground zero but rather built on what I have learnt and the mistakes that I have made in the process of learning. There are many books written but no one to mentor or teach in these areas)

1) Message of knowledge (a word of knowledge)

2) Message of wisdom (a word of wisdom)

I was worshipping God during one of the Sunday service and this person came to my mind and the word “financial problem” came to my mind (word of knowledge).

It is very easy to just stop here but I was taught that I need to ask God what to do. So I ask God what He wants me do. God said to bless him with a certain amount (word of wisdom). I just obeyed.

It is very important that these two gifts operate together. Not only do we need to know what the root problem is and more importantly to know what to do.

I have share the word of knowledge with people and they denied it and as a result alienated our relationship. Instead of helping it became a stumbling block. Out of this I am learning that I will only speak to the person when God shows me what to do.

Timing to share to the person is also important.

Similarly, when praying or ministering to people, I need the word of knowledge and wisdom to be in operation. When God show me that the person is having unforgiveness (word of knowledge), I also need to ask God for “word of wisdom” how to politely and tactfully ask the person to forgive those that has sin against them.

3) Distinguishing between spirits (discerning of spirits)

This is the ability to discern the type of spirits.

In my experiences, it is mostly evil spirit. Once I was praying for a man who was not well. I discern that there are evil spirits in him that is causing him to be unwell. We explain to the person, tell the person what we are going to do and we then pray for the person. When the person was delivered of the evil spirits, the person got well.

I know of some people with this gift and they can feel the presence of the evil spirit(s) in the person who are being prayed for. They can feel what the person is feeling or experiencing.

This spiritual gift is very useful when doing deliverance. Make deliverance much easier.

4) Speaking in different kinds of tongues (kinds of tongues)

5) Interpretation of tongues

I have seen this being done where one pray in tongues while the other person will interpret it. Or the same person prays in tongues and interprets the tongues.

This is very new to me. My limited experience is when I pray in tongues for a long time, my tongue would change as though I was speaking but not words but in tongues. Sometimes, the interpretation of the tongues comes to my mind; however I struggle to put the thoughts into words. This is something that I need to work on - work in progress.

6) Prophecy

Prophecy is given for strengthening, encouragement and comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3).

For those who are new in this, when God impresses you to prophesy over the person (to give words to strengthen, encourage or comfort), we need to ask God to give you the word of God to give to the person. You can never be wrong with the word of God.

As you get better in this, God will give you words to say to the person.

Prophecy can also be link with the gifts of the word of knowledge and word of wisdom.

(Note – if what you are saying is condemning, tearing down the person, discouraging what you are prophesying is NOT from God. As leaders or mature Christians we will ask you to stop and please obey. Further discussion on this can be done later and in private)

7) Faith

The gift of faith goes beyond the faith that we all need for salvation.

It is also distinct from the fruit of faith which comes by the process of natural growth.

It is a supernatural faith that goes beyond the natural ability and produces supernatural results.

An example - We were in India having an open air evangelistic meeting and the sky turn dark threatening to rain. The gift of faith comes into operation to pray that the rain clouds be blown away and to withhold the rain. Not once but several times.

Another example – the gift of faith to the leaders of this church to take the whole church to Tanjung Malim during Easter, Sepang during Merdeka holidays and the coming trip to Penang (HARVEST..ing Penang)

8) Gifts of healing

9) Miraculous powers (workings of miracles)

We have heard many stories on how God uses Harvest Community Church to heal the many people that were sick and seeing miracles of blind people seeing, deaf hearing, lame walk, one shorter leg growing to the same length of the other normal leg.

Healing and miracles in our church is so common like what we read in Acts 19:11 where it says that “God did extraordinary miracles through Paul...”

The word “extraordinary” used here implies that miracles were common occurrences that Dr Luke has to record what Paul did with the handkerchiefs and aprons he touched and used to heal and deliver the sick were extraordinary miracles.

How to allow God to release these spiritual gifts through us?

Firstly it is released through love and/or compassion. God is love and when God is in us, His love in us will start to grow.

Secondly, we need to step out in faith. Be obedient – it is ok to make mistakes (I have made many and God is still on His throne) but it is NOT ok to hold back. By holding back, the church will miss out being blessed and build up with you operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

How do we practice this?

For a start - the best avenue to practice this is in our cell groups. I want to implement this in our PJ cell and would encourage the PJ cell to participate.

Maybe in our Saturday prayer meetings – as the Holy Spirit leads.

Unhindered operation of spiritual gifts

We sometimes need to set ourselves free from traditional ideas of how we should behave “in church”.

We need to cultivate sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and to make room for Him to move as and as He wills.

Example: In Kitou church, Sabah, where after the worship service we have ministry before the message. When we allow the Holy Spirit to do what He wants, we see a mighty move of the manifestation of God.

Limitation of Spiritual Gifts

a) Spiritual gifts are limited to the present life.

b) The exercise of spiritual gifts gives no indication of a person's character.

c) Once we received one of these gifts, we are free to use it, misuse it or just not use it at all.

Ultimately however, God will require an account of what we have done or not done.

We need to bear always in mind the warning of Jesus, “You will know them by their fruits” (Matthew 7:20) - not by their gifts.

Spiritual gifts do not tell us the spiritual conditions of the person having these spiritual gifts.

Jesus followed up these words by an explicit warning that the exercise of spiritual gifts is not necessarily a passport to heaven:

Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV)

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name cast out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evil-doers!’

In NKJV vs 23 says – And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you, depart from me, you who practice lawlessness!’

This indicate that it is possible for a person to exercise spiritual gifts and at the same time to “practice lawlessness”

What is lawlessness? It is an arrogant assumption that God’s moral law and ethical standards no longer apply to those who can exercise gifts of supernatural power.

Obviously, such ministries may at times confront us with the need to make difficult personal decisions. How should we respond?

a) We must keep in mind Paul’s warning to Timothy: “Do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure”.

b) We must also keep in mind the warning which Jesus gave us concerning unethical ministries: “Heaven is for those who do the will of my Father in heaven”.

We each need to ask ourselves: What is the will of God in my life? What does my Father expect from me?

For my part, I feel that God has given me a clear and simple answer: This is the will of God, that you should be holy” (1 Thessalonians 4:3)

To this the Holy Spirit has added a warning: “without holiness no one can see the Lord” (Hebrew 12:14)

It is my determination to pursue holiness.

Conclusion.

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Second requirement - is to carefully follow the directions which the Spirit Himself has transmitted/showed/revealed to us in the scriptures.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit – Sermon Notes (9/11/14)

God has sent His Holy Spirit with abundant provision for the bride of His Son, Jesus – the Church.

The Church is marked out as the one who is committed to become the bride of Christ when the Church exercises these spiritual gifts

These nine gifts are listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. The gifts are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <u>Message of wisdom (a word of wisdom)</u> | 6) <u>Prophecy</u> |
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“Manifest” means “clearly visible”; “manifestation” means “display or disclosure”

The Holy Spirit Himself is invisible, but through these gifts He manifest Himself. He impacts our senses in a way we can see or hear or feel.

2. All of spiritual gifts are “for the common good – NIV” or “for the profit of all -NKJV”.

Through them, Christians can minister to one another.

They all serve some practical purpose. They are tools NOT toys.

3. All these spiritual gifts are supernatural.

They are not a product of natural ability or special education.

These spiritual gifts were NOT withdrawn at the close of the apostolic age and are available today.

Paul thanks God for the Christians at Corinth because “you do not lack any spiritual gifts as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed” (I Corinthians 1:7).

Obviously, therefore Christians are expected to continue to exercise spiritual gifts until the return of Christ.

4. It must be emphasized that all these are gifts of God’s grace.

They are received by faith. We can never earn them. We can never be “good enough” to exercise them.

Unhindered operation of spiritual gifts

We need to cultivate sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and to make room for Him to move as and as He wills.

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c) Once we received one of these gifts, we are free to use it, misuse it or just not use it at all.

We need to bear always in mind the warning of Jesus, “You will know them by their fruits” (Matthew 7:20) - not by their gifts.

Jesus followed up these words by an explicit warning that the exercise of spiritual gifts is not necessarily a passport to heaven: Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV)

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit – Sermon Notes (9/11/14)

God has sent His Holy Spirit with _____ for the bride of His Son, Jesus – _____.

The _____ is marked out as the one who is _____ to become the bride of Christ when the Church _____ these spiritual gifts

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

1. All these spiritual gifts are _____.

“Manifest” means “_____”; “manifestation” means “_____”

The Holy Spirit Himself is _____, but through these gifts He manifest Himself. He impacts our _____ in a way we can _____ or _____ or _____.

2. All of spiritual gifts are “_____” or “_____”.

Through them, Christians can _____.

They all _____ some _____. They are _____ NOT _____.

3. All these spiritual gifts are _____.

They are not a product of _____ or _____.

These spiritual gifts were NOT withdrawn at the close of the apostolic age and are available today.

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4. It must be emphasized that all these are _____.

They are received by _____. We can never _____ them. We can never be “_____” to exercise them.

Unhindered operation of spiritual gifts

We need to cultivate _____ and to make _____.

Limitation of Spiritual Gifts

a) Spiritual gifts are _____.

b) The exercise of spiritual gifts _____.

c) Once we received one of these gifts, _____.

We need to bear always in mind the warning of Jesus, “_____” (Matthew 7:20)

- _____.

Jesus followed up these words by an explicit warning that the exercise of spiritual gifts is not necessarily a passport to heaven: _____