



SERMON NOTES

US N^o. 156

Date: September 7th, 2014

Title: The Gifts at Work

#9 in the series on the Spirit Filled Church

1. Review

- a. The greatest commandments: love God with everything and love our neighbors as ourselves.
- b. The Spirit is absolutely required for us to lead holy & pleasing lives for God, to lead lives of abundant life.
- c. Know who the Holy Spirit is; no matter denomination or theology, He is the presence of God.
- d. God has had a plan since the beginning and to fulfill it He has placed His Spirit within each disciple so that they (*each one*) may be equipped for every good that His Kingdom may advance.
- e. Two objects cannot occupy the same space, there we must forsake all and follow Christ. Our growth is hindered by: opinion of the others, corruption within our own hearts and souls, a vibrant self-life, bad reception of God's will and word, strong belief in self-reliance, and refusing the path of Christ-like humility in our lives.
- f. Who is in the driver's seat of our lives? Is the Spirit only a paying passenger, or is He driving?
- g. The blessing of the Spirit is not a result of being a Super Christian, just our hunger. How desperate are we really? Open the floodgates to the full life and power of God through you to the world.
- h. Beware of nibbling the "*apple pies*" of the table of this world that fill. Begin by expressing your desire for God, and then increase your attentiveness, capacity and sensitivity. Or put another way – plant good seed, nurture, protect and then harvest a hundred fold.
- i. We are commanded to both walk in the Spirit, producing the Fruit in our lives (sanctification), and to be filled (controlled) by the Spirit and seek to operate in the gifts (ministry). As disciples we ought to produce good & abundant Fruit and be free to operate in the Gifts. In fact, we're commanded to eagerly desire the spiritual gifts.
- j. Fruit is a natural result of living in the Vine; sanctification.
- k. Yes, even today eagerly desire the gifts, because multiple jobs require multiple gifts.
- l. Be filled, not just with the word, but also the Presence of God; Synagogue y Temple.

2. Why don't see the operation of the gifts more in the Church today?

- a. The gifts are neglected [*i.e. careless, made light of, or have no regard for.*] If something is neglected for long enough, eventually it won't be missed, similar to the atrophy of unused muscles.
 - i. Therefore they need to be stirred up and rekindled. 2 Tim. 1:6-7, "*Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*"

- b. People cease to flow in the Spirit by drifting into “selfish” or “tradition” paths, His voice then becomes muffled.
 - i. We know for certain that the Spirit never functions outside the boundaries of the Bible, judge by the Word. Phil. 2:3, “*Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit*” And Jn. 16:13-14, “*However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.*”
 - c. Manifestations of the Spirit are not permitted by the church leadership.
 - i. Do not sit under leadership that discourages or rejects the gifts. 1 Cor. 14:39, “*Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.*” And 1 Thess. 5:19-21, “*Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good.*”
 - d. There is an atmosphere of unbelief and skepticism within the church; “*it doesn’t fit my theology.*”
 - i. We must allow God to be God, which may make us uncomfortable in the natural but allows the unhindered operation of faith. Jn. 20:27, 29, “*Do not be unbelieving, but believing... Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*” And Mark 16:14, “*Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.*”
 - e. Gifts cannot operate when people have no knowledge of their availability; how do you covet the best gifts if we don’t know.
 - i. Therefore we must teach, and teach rigorously. The gifts are given for the edification, exhortation and comfort of the church, which we desperately need. Rom. 10:14, “*How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?*”
3. The Gifts at Work
- a. The stream of the Spirit is always flowing. The supply is faithful and constant.
 - b. We bear Christ to the world, after we’ve been loosed from our bondage.
 - i. Donkey colts; Mark 11:2-7, “*and He said to them, “Go into the village opposite you; and as soon as you have entered it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has sat. Loose it and bring it. And if anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it,’ and immediately he will send it here.” So they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door outside on the street, and they loosed it. But some of those who stood there said to them, “What are you doing, loosing the colt?” And they spoke to them just as Jesus had commanded. So they let them go. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it.*”
 - ii. 1 Cor. 15:49, “*And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.*”
 - c. 1 Cor. 14

4. Take-aways

- a. Each person must decide whether the Spirit and His gifts are just scaffolding, or whether they're part of the superstructure of the Church.
- b. Walk by, be filled with and live in the Spirit.
- c. Eagerly desire and rejoice in the gifts.
- d. God's Spirit is always flowing, always at work. We must take responsibility for our end of the pipe and keep it clean.
- e. Humbly bear Christ, the true hero of the Story, into the hearts and homes of others. He is Master and He is God.