

VI. Doctrine of the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)

A. The Nature of the Holy Spirit

- * Christians have many different perceptions, ideas and even questions regarding the Holy Spirit.
- * As a small child Cheryl heard people talking about the Holy Ghost, and the only ghost she knew of was "Casper the friendly ghost". This really confused her.
- * First we are going to examine the nature of the Holy Spirit.
- * We will be discussing three aspects of the Holy Spirit's nature: The divinity, the personality, and the symbols.
- * As we begin to get a picture of who He is, and what He does, we will begin to realize all that He can do in our lives.

1. The Divine Nature of the Holy Spirit

- * When we examine other religions and cults, we see that many people deny the deity and even the very existence of the Holy Spirit.
- * Even many Christians relegate Him to some lesser form of God-but He is divine.

a. Divine names are ascribed to Him

- (1) Biblical writers assigned deistic names to Him with no hesitancy or problem, and they did not throw the name of God around loosely.
 - * Acts 5:3-4..."Not lying to man, but to God"
 - * 2 Cor. 3:18..."From Lord, the Spirit"
 - * The Bible shows him as distinct from the Father and the Son
- (2) The name is used in conjunction with the Father and the Son
 - * The Holy Spirit is linked in Scripture with the Father & the Son.
 - * Baptismal formula (Matt. 28:19).. "Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit..."
 - * Apostolic Benediction (2 Cor. 13:14..."the grace of our Lord, the love of God, & the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with..."
 - * Giving of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:4-6..."different kinds of gifts...but the same Spirit gives them

b. Divine attributes are ascribed to Him

- (1) Eternality
 - * He has no beginning nor end Heb. 9:14
- (2) Omnipresent
 - * He is present everywhere Ps. 139:7-10
- (3) Omnipotent
 - * He has the perfect power of God Luke 1:35
- (4) Omniscient
 - * He has all knowledge I Cor. 2:10-11
- (5) Life
 - * He has life in Himself Rom. 8:2
- (6) Truthful
 - * In him there is no falsehood Jn 16:13..
- (7) Holiness
 - * He has infinite perfection

c. Divine works are ascribed to Him

- * He does those things which only deity can accomplish)
 - (1) Creation
 - * Bringing into existence out of nothing (Gen. 1:1; Ps. 104:30)
 - (2) Casting Out Demons
 - * Matt. 12:28..."Cast out by the Holy Spirit"
 - (3) Convicting of Sin
 - * Bring people to the recognition of need of life change (John 16:8)
 - (4) Regeneration
 - * Affecting of new birth (John 3:5-8)
 - (5) Resurrection
 - * Rom. 8:11"Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead"
 - (6) Inspiration
 - * 2 Pet. 1:21: He was involved in inspiration

2. The Personal Nature of the Holy Spirit

- * Some Christians struggle with understanding the Holy Spirit as a person.
- * The concepts of God the Father and God the Son are comprehensible to us.
- * But God the Spirit is somewhat nebulous and fuzzy.
- * Perhaps we struggle because the spirit is immaterial, or because Scripture may describe Him impersonally and symbolically (wind, fire, water).
- * Never the less, the Holy Spirit is a person (Burgess & McGee DPCM p. 410).

a. Jesus Referred to His Personhood (Comforter/Counselor)

- * Jesus called the HS the "paraclete, the one He is sending" (Jn 14:15-26; 15:26, 16:7)
- * Paraclete denotes personal function: comforter, counselor, advocate, one called alongside to help.
- * John 14:16: "Another comforter". (Another of the same kind) in Greek is a comparable word to "like me, or comparable to me."
- * If Paraclete expresses personality when applied to Christ, it must do so also when applied to the Spirit.

b. Characteristics of personality are ascribed to Him.

- * The three essential elements of personality are ascribed to the Spirit.
 - (1) Mind: Knowledge
 - * 1 Cor. 2:10-11; Rom. 8:27 "The Spirit knows the m. of God..."
 - (2) Will: Choices
 - * Acts 13:1..."Set apart for that which I have called them";
 - * 1 Cor. 12:11..."Spiritual gifts are given as He chooses"
 - (3) Emotion
 - * Eph. 4:30..."Don't grieve the Holy Spirit of God"

c. Personal acts are performed by Him.

- * The Holy Spirit can be involved in the following activities. He...

- (1) Works: I Cor. 12:11
- (2) Reveals: Jn. 16:13
- (3) Teaches: Jn. 14:26
- (4) Testifies/witnesses: Rom. 8:16; Jn. 15:26; Rom. 8:16; Acts 1:8
- (5) Intercedes: Rom. 8:26
- (6) Speaks: Rev. 2:7a
- (7) Convict/Reproves: Jn. 16:8
- (8) Searches: I Cor. 2:10b
- (9) Empowers: Acts 1:8
- (10) Guides: Into truth Jn. 16:13; In His will Acts 16: 6-7
- (11) Glorifies Christ: Jn. 16:14
- (12) Calls: Acts 13:2

d. Personal treatment can be given Him.

- (1) Lied to: Acts 5:3 “Ananias and Saphira lied to the Holy Spirit”
- (2) Tested/Tempted: Acts 5:9 “How could you...test the Spirit of the Lord?”
- (3) Grieved: Eph. 4:30 “Don't Grieve the Holy Spirit”
- (4) Quenched: 1Thss. 5:19 “Do not put out the Spirit’s fire.”
- (5) Resisted: Acts 7:51 “Nation has resisted the Holy Spirit”
- (6) Insulted: Heb. 10:29 “Outraged the Holy Spirit”
- (7) Blasphemed: Matt. 12:31-32; Mark 3:28-29 Luke 12:10

- * So far we have discussed the Divinity of the Spirit, as well as the personality of the HS.
- * Next we will take a look at the symbols of the Holy Spirit.
- * This will help give us insight into His character & the role that He can play in our lives.

3. The symbols of the Holy Spirit

- * By definition, symbols are an emblem or sign representing something else.
- * In Scripture, several symbols are used to describe the operations of the HS.
- * Caution: every reference to one of these symbols is not necessarily a direct reference to the Holy Spirit.
- * Example: Just because water is a symbol, does not mean every reference of water must mean its the Holy Spirit.

a. Fire

- * Fire represents the presence of God (Ex. 3:2-6).
- * Fire represents the power of God (I Kings 18:38; Acts 2:3)
- * It can also represent the purifying of God (Isa. 4:4; 6:6-7)

b. Wind

- * Like the Spirit, the wind is strong, unrestrained in its movement, persistent, pervading, and, refreshing.
- * Clear grammatical connection between wind and Holy Spirit in Jn. 3:8
- * Clear Scriptural connection: Ezek. 37:1-14; Acts 2:2

c. Water

- * Water is life-giving. It quenches, refreshes, cleanses, purifies. It is powerful and healing.
- * The idea of "pour out" is suggestive of water being an overflowing, as a river or flood of waters.

* See Jn. 7:37-39; 3:5; Ezek. 36:25-27; Isa. 44:3

d. Wine

- * This can be a symbol for stimulation, exhilaration, and rejoicing.
- * This can be a symbol by implication or contrast more than by direct connection.
- * See Acts 2:13,15; Ephesians 5:18; Mt. 9:14-17

e. Dove

- * Symbolizes gentleness, peacefulness and purity.
- * Matt. 3:16b; Lk. 3:21b-22a

f. Oil

- * This symbolizes the concept of anointing.
- * Oil saturates, soothes, moistens and protects. It eliminates friction and abrasion. It purges and cleanses. Its energy radiates light and warmth.
 - * Christ's anointing: Lk. 4:18a; Acts 10:38
 - * OT anointing: Ex 29:7; 30:22-23; I Sam 10:1, 9-10; 1 Kg 19:16
 - * The believer's anointing: I Jn. 2:20

g. The Seal

- * Several verses refer to the sealing of the Spirit, and in most cases, there is an accompanying reference to the earnest of the Spirit.

Seal:

- * From the owner's side it is a designation of ownership, a trademark indicating we are His workmanship.
- * From the believer's side it is the assurance that we belong to the Lord. It provides confidence in our relationship with the Lord.

Earnest/deposit:

- * The ideas of seal and earnest are closely related.
- * Both emphasize the fact that what we have now through the Spirit guarantee of a greater fullness to come.
- * See 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30.

- * We have taken a look at the nature of the Holy Spirit.
- * Now we are going to look at the work of the Holy Spirit.
- * We will do a quick overview of some of the different ways that He is involved in the life of the Christian today.

B. The Work of the Holy Spirit

Discussion

- * Let's brainstorm and think of all of the different ways we know by which the HS works in us.
- * We will see today that there are a variety of ways through which He works.

1. **Following our conversion, He is involved in regeneration.**

- * When we are saved, the Holy Spirit dwells in us. I Cor. 6:19.
- * Our body becomes the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- * Our hearts become the sanctuary (the holy of holies) where God dwells.
- * The Spirit bears witness that we are indeed the children of God.

2. He is involved in our ongoing sanctification.

- * Believers are called upon to actively work on cleaning up our lives, and the Holy Spirit helps us to do this (2 Cor. 7:1; Rom. 6:12).

3. He works to bring us to maturity (Fruit)

- * Maturity is the goal toward which the HS is always working (Eph. 4:3).
- * The fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) is the product of Christian growth toward maturity.
- * The Holy Spirit helps us here, and he is the dynamic that makes this growth/fruit possible.

* *Note: The first three speak of Christian habits of mind, directed God-ward*

a. Love (*agape*)

- * The virtue of brotherly sacrificial love.
- * Refers to love (affection, good will, and benevolence) which seeks the good of others. (Implies relationship)
- * The greatest of these is love (1 Cor. 13:13), for God is love (1 Jn. 4:8)
- * The pattern of agape love is God's love revealed in Christ, which enables us to love God and others.
- * Agape (divine) love is
 - * unmerited (Rom. 5:8)
 - * great (Eph. 2:4)
 - * transforming (Rom. 5:5)
 - * Unchangeable (Rom. 8:35-39)
- * It was because of this kind of love that Jesus came to die for sinful men.
- * This is the kind of love the Spirit is working to produce in us.
- * We are to show this kind of selfless love to other Christians and to the world.
- * Men are to know that we are Christ's disciples by our love (John 13:35).

b. Joy (*chara*)

- * The virtue in the Christian life corresponding to happiness in the secular world. On the surface they seem related, but happiness depends on the circumstances and joy does not. *
- * Joy = gladness.
- * Deep gladness is born of a personal relationship to God, which includes a sense of our fulfilling His will.
- * This is true Christian victory--a sense of deep abiding joy, despite our circumstances.
- * Are you a joyful Christian?
- * A good test to see if you are joyful, is to ask that question of yourself right now, in whatever situation you currently find yourself.
- * If I am not satisfied with what I have, I will never be satisfied with what I want. (Ecc. 5:11).
- * If I cannot enjoy gladness and joy today, what makes me think I will experience it tomorrow?
- * As a student, we always think.. When I finish this paper...When I finish this test...etc.
- * But there will always be something more.
- * The key lies in realizing that God has already given us everything that we need for our present joy.
- * Joy does not depend on what happens to us, but our response to what happens to

us.

- * Seek the Lord to help you develop and attitude of joy.

c. **Peace** (*eirene*)

- * A tranquillity of mind, or spiritual well-being, based on forgiveness.
- * This refers to the state of being at peace with God (Rom. 5:1) which results in two things:
 - * Peace of mind (Phil. 4:6,7)
 - * Peace between all those who know God
 - * at home (1 Cor. 7:12-16)
 - * between Jew and Gentile (Eph. 2:14-17)
 - * within the church (Eph. 4:3; Col. 3:15)
 - * in relationships with all men (Heb. 12:14)
- * Christians are to strive for this peace (1 Pet. 3:11).
- * It does not mean a lack of problems, but peace in the midst of the storm.
- * You are the calm at the center of the storm.
- * The importance of peace can be seen in its frequent use in the NT: over 80 times, and in every book.

* *Note: The next 3 deal with Christians in relationship to man (social virtues)*

d. **Patience** (*makrothumia*)

- * To be steadfast in the endurance of suffering (long-suffering).
- * It refers to the quality of putting up with others, even when one is severely tried.
- * This is learning to put up with those “spiritual vampires” who suck all the life out of you.
- * It speaks of being stretched and not breaking.
- * We need to be “spiritual rubber-bands.”
- * Patience, forbearance, long-suffering, results in slowness in avenging wrongs.
- * Very characteristic of God (slow to anger...Joel 2:13)
 - * Not reacting in retaliation, but restraining ourselves.
 - * Reluctance to avenge wrongs.

e. **Kindness** (*chrestotes*)

- * Behaving toward others as God has behaved toward us.
- * Benignity, kindness.
- * Denotes excellence in character in the sense of due regard for the fragile nature of human personality and for human need.

f. **Goodness** (*agathosune*)

- * Refers to the generosity that springs from kindness.
- * While similar to kindness, it is a more active term, often directed toward that which does not merit the action.
- * Uprightness of heart and life; kindness, beneficence.
- * General sense of ideal character, but with righteousness softened by love.

* *Note: The last three are related to how a Christian is to be in himself.*

g. **Faithfulness** (*pistis*)

- * Faithfulness refers to being a person upon whom others can rely.

- * It speaks of trustworthiness or reliability.
- * Fidelity, faithfulness, the character of one who can be relied on.
- * It is the word used to describe a faithful servant (Luke 16:10-12), including the servants of the Gospel and of Christ (1 Tim. 1:12; 2 Tim. 2:2).
- * It describes the character of a person who will die for his confession of Christ (Rev. 2:10; 3:14).
- * Note: Can also be translate faith, though probably not best translation here.
- * Faith refers to genuine trust in God, or belief in Christ alone.

h. **Gentleness** (*prautes*)

- * Gentleness refers to mildness or meekness.
- * Remember, meekness is not weakness; rather, it is power under control.
 - * Example: a bridled horse.
- * It denotes controlled strength, and not weakness.
- * Describes the person who is so much in control of himself that he is always angry at the right time and never angry at the wrong time.
- * Moses was praised for being the gentlest/meekest among his contemporaries (Num. 12:3).
- * Closely linked w/humility, which means considerateness to other men (& God).
- * It is a necessary attitude in which to learn (James 1:21)
- * Attitude in which discipline must be applied & faults corrected (Gal. 6:1)
- * It is the virtue necessary for meeting opposition (2 Tim. 2:25)
- * It is necessary for giving a Christian witness (1 Pet. 3:15, 16)

i. **Self Control** (*enkrateia*)

- * The virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites.
- * It is the quality that gives victory over fleshly desires and which is therefore closely related to purity both in mind and conduct.
- * It is the ability that helps us live and walk in the world, and yet keep our garments unspotted from the world.
- * *(Taken in part from J. H. Thayer: Greek-English Lexicon of the NT, and Donald Guthrie Commentary, and Expositor's commentary.)*

4. **He baptizes with power for Christian life and ministry.**

- * In the book of Acts we read that God baptizes believer in His Spirit and they speak in tongues and receive power to witness.

a. **Definition of the baptism in the Spirit**

- * The “baptism in the Spirit” is an experience in God in which one knows more fully the presence of the Holy Spirit in dominating and controlling his/her life.

b. **Description of the baptism in the Spirit**

- * This baptism is a radical, transforming experience.
- * Baptism is the same Greek term for sinking a ship or dying cloth.
- * It results in power for witnessing.
- * It is evidenced by speaking in a language one has not learned (glossolalia).
- * *Show comic: Man in Dr. office: Are you filled with the Spirit?*

c. Purpose of the baptism in the Spirit

- * Here are some benefits of, and reasons why every Christian should seek this experience today:

(1) *It provides motivation and power for Christian service/witness* (Ac 1:8)

- * The baptism in the Holy Spirit and tongues is not an end in itself.
- * It is empowerment for Christian life/service, specifically missions.
- * God equips us with the strength we need to carry forth His call on our lives.
- * It needs to be the Great Commission, not the great omission.

(2) *It opens a new avenue of prayer and praise* (1 Cor. 14:2)

- * It opens up a prayer life that wouldn't be available any other way.
- * Believers can speak supernaturally to God: 1 Cor. 14:2
- * Our spirits, as distinct from our understanding, can pray: 1Co. 14:14
- * Believers may magnify God: Acts 10:46
- * It opens a new avenue into the supernatural. Ac 2:43; 3:1-10; 5:1

(3) *It edifies the believer* (1 Cor. 14:4)

- * The Spirit builds up our inner "spirit man."
- * Sometimes when we pray in tongues we may not feel anything dramatic, or sense anything extremely significant, but we are building up our spiritual defenses.

Illustration: Taking Vitamins

- * Vitamins are good for us--they build up our bodies defenses.
- * Have someone take a vitamin.
- * There, "do you feel a lot better now?"
- * Vitamins build us up and make us strong over time.
- * It is the same way with the Spirit--helps us in our weaknesses.

(4) *It helps provide power to overcome sin & weaknesses* (Rom. 8:26)

- * Because we have built up our spiritual defenses,
- * We are more resistant to, and can bounce back more quickly, to overcome sin, temptation, and weakness.

(5) *God desires every believer to speak in tongues* (1 Cor. 14:5)

- * If for no other reason, we should seek this experience because God desires it for all.
- * Granted, tongues is not an end-all-but it is a desired starting point
- * The Bible clearly shows that it is for all.

Scripture examples:

- * Joel 2:28 - the Spirit will be poured out on "all flesh."
- * Acts: The apostles were not satisfied until the new believers were filled with the Spirit.
 - * Peter and John with the Samaritans
 - * Paul with the Ephesians (19:2)
- * 1 Cor. 14:5 - "I wish that you all speak in tongues"
- * John 7:38-39 states "whoever believes in me, streams of living

water will flow from within him. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive.”

- * Acts 2:39 states: "the promise is for you and your children and for all who are afar off, as many as the Lord shall call to Himself."

d. Timing of the baptism in the Spirit

- * Baptism in the HS is an event that happens subsequent to (following) conversion.
- * This causes some to wonder: "If I am saved, don't I already have the Holy Spirit?"
- * If so, then why do I need to "receive" the HS again?
- * The Bible speaks of 2 dimensions to the reception of the Holy Spirit in our lives:
 - * Upon believing (regeneration) we receive the Holy Spirit
 - * See John 3:5-6; Rom. 8:9b; 1 Cor. 12:3, Eph. 1:13-14.
 - * Every Christian experiences a measure of the Spirit's power (Jn. 1:12).
 - * But the baptism in the Spirit is not a saving experience for the non-Xtian.
 - * It is an empowering experience for the Christian, in order that he may be supernaturally equipped to do ministry.
- * The Bible clearly shows an experience subsequent to salvation, whereby one moves into a realm of experiencing the fullness of the Spirit in even a greater way.
 - * This baptism may be immediately following salvation, or there may be a lapse of time in between.
- * This subsequent experience has nothing to do with salvation, but rather is an equipping and empowerment for service (Acts 1:8; Paul, etc.).

e. Evidence of the baptism in the Spirit

- * The biblical evidences of Spirit baptism are most often accompanied by tongues (3 of 5) times.
- * In all of the accounts of infilling of the Holy Spirit where accompanying evidences are spelled out, tongues is always one of them (3 of 5).
- * Where tongues is not spelled out, other considerations point to tongues (2 of 5). (Ex: Paul's baptism doesn't say, but elsewhere says he speaks in tongues)
- * Additional evidences include prophesying, power for witnessing, praising God.

Discussion/Brainstorm

- * Why would God have chosen tongues? Aren't tongues just senseless gibberish?
- * *Here are 5 possible reasons why God would have chosen tongues.*

(1) It is an external observable evidence.

- * Without an observable evidence, the question of whether or not a person was filled with the Holy Spirit would be subjective.

It would be left up to:

- * personal introspection and/or
- * the examination by Christians of each other's lives.
- * Both procedures are negative and tend to a condemning and fault-finding attitude
- * God was wise in giving us an observable/unmistakable evidence.
- * Some would object to the need for external signs, and yet God

has given such in both ordinances: the Lord's Supper and water baptism.

(2) *It is a uniform evidence.*

- * Joel's prophecy (2:28 "all flesh") implies the wide divergence of people who would receive:
- * old men, young men; servant & hand maidens; sons & daughters
- * intellectual giants and ignorant heathen converts
- * unemotional persons and passionate zealots
- * mature saints and babes in Christ.
- * Given such diversity, many different reactions and responses to the HS may be seen.
- * This is one uniform evidence as proof of the infilling of the HS.

(3) *It is a symbol of the Holy Spirit's control in one's life.*

- * It demonstrates that we have yielded control of all parts of ourselves: body (tongue), mind/will, and spirit.
- * See James 3, 1 Cor. 14:14-15
- * The tongue is a difficult thing to tame.
- * Men have understood for centuries, what a dangerous thing the tongue can be.
- * This little poem states it well:

“The boneless tongue, so small and weak,
can crush and kill,” declared the Greek.
The Persian proverb wisely saith,
“A lengthy tongue, an early death.”
Sometimes it takes this form instead:
“Don't let your tongue cut off your head.”
While Arab sages this impart:
“The tongues great storehouse is the heart.”
From Hebrew wit, the maxim's sprung:
“Though feet should slip, don't let the tongue.”
A verse from Scripture crowns the whole:
“Who keeps the tongue doth keep his soul.”

- * If we allow the Spirit to control our tongue, he can control us.

(4) *Tongues signify the universal nature of the Gospel.*

- * On the Day of Pentecost tongues established the fact that God was now ready to reveal His message to all mankind.
- * Remember up until that point the Jews had held that the message of God was exclusively for them.

(5) *Tongues are symbolic of the purpose of Spirit baptism.*

- * One of the primary purposes for the baptism in the Spirit is boldness for witness.
- * One of the primary means of witness is speech.
- * Tongues is symbolic of the Spirit's empowering in our speech.

Conclusion

- * In the end, who really knows why God chose tongues?
- * We cannot always know the mind of God.
- * Why did he send Jesus to be born in a manger, and then die a criminal's death on a cross?
- * God has a way of using the foolish things to confound the wise.
- * God, in His sovereignty, chose tongues as the sign of Spirit baptism.

* So we accept tongues as the initial evidence for the baptism.

f. Who should seek the baptism in the Spirit?

- * Every believer can receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, which empowers him/her for Christian life and service.
- * Scripture makes it clear that God intends this experience for all believers:
- * Joel 2:28 prophecy states that the Spirit will be poured out on “all flesh.”
- * Acts 2:39 acknowledges the universality of the Holy Spirit outpouring: “the promise is for you and your children and for all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself.”
- * In Acts the apostles weren’t satisfied until new believers were filled.
- * Lk. 11:13 “the Father will give the HS to those who ask”
- * 1 Cor. 14:5 God “I wish that you all speak in tongues”
- * Mark 16:17 These signs shall follow all who believe.
- * John 7:38-39 “those who believed in Him were later to receive the HS.”
- * Scripture makes it clear that there are many benefits to this experience.
- * Will empower us in Christian witness--every Christian should want it.

Summary Comments on Spirit Baptism

1. Spirit baptism is clearly shown as the promise of God, for all believers (2:39-41).
2. Spirit baptism is an experience subsequent to salvation.
3. Spirit baptism is a revolutionary & radical experience.
4. Spirit baptism is evidenced initially by speaking in tongues.
5. We cannot make tongues so important to the neglect of other important things, like living in the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit.
6. There are many benefits from Spirit baptism, primary of which is empowerment for service.

Challenge

- * God has given us a precious gift of the baptism in the Spirit.
 - * It is our responsibility to make sure we invest and use it wisely.
 - * Someone asked me: How come some Christians who are filled with the Spirit do so little?
 - * This is because some have bought into the emphasis on speaking tongues once, and that is the end--all of the experience--but this is not the case.
 - * They don’t understand the rich treasure that God has given us--Don’t sell yourself short.
- * **Illustration:** Read Shel Silverstein's poem "Smart".
- * Note: Explain what a quarter, dime, nickel, and penny are.

My dad gave me one dollar bill
'Cause I'm his smartest son,
And I swapped it for two shiny quarters
'Cause two is more than one!

And then I took the quarters
And traded them to Lou
For three dimes-I guess he don't know
That three is more than two!

Just then, along came old blind Bates
And just 'cause he can't see
He gave me four nickels for my three dimes,

And four is more than three!

And I took the nickels to Hiram Coombs
Down at the seed-feed store,
And the fool gave me five pennies for them,
And five is more than four!

And then I went and showed my dad,
And he got red in the cheeks
And closed his eyes and shook his head-
Too proud of me to speak!

Shel Silverstein

- * So often we sell ourselves so short!
- * We seek after and settle for some smaller initial blessing, when God wants to give us even greater blessing.
- * God has offered us something wonderful,
- * Make sure that we don't waste it away on our own ideas of what is good.
- * Don't settle for less than God's best.

Review

- * *We have been talking about ways that the Holy Spirit works in our lives.*
- * *So far we've seen that:*
 1. *Following our conversion, He is involved in regeneration.*
 2. *He is involved in our ongoing sanctification.*
 3. *He works to bring us to maturity (Fruit)*
 4. *He baptizes with power for Christian life and ministry.*
- * *For the next couple of days we are going to discuss how he gifts us for ministry.*

5. He gives spiritual gifts for ministry.

a. Who receives spiritual gifts?

- * The New Testament teaches that every Christian believer has one or more spiritual gifts which he/she is to exercise in the body of believers.
- * We must remember that these are gifts that the Holy Spirit gives, as He sees fit.
- * They are not of our own human effort or ability, and we cannot work for them.
- * See the following verses: Eph. 4:7; Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:7; 1 Pet. 4:10.

b. Why are spiritual gifts given?

- * The primary purpose of these gifts is to build up the body of Christ and bring it to maturity (Eph. 4:7-13).
- * They are freely given by God to meet the needs of His people.
- * Also, they can assist the body of Christ in evangelism and missions.
- * So each believer's gift is a vital step in God's plan.

c. How are these gifts to operate?

- * In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul has just finished talking about spiritual gifts, and here he is qualifying how they should all be carried out: IN LOVE!
- * Love is the key to everything within the church body.
- * Gifts were not for private individual enrichment, nor for rivalry & jealousy, but

for the benefit of all.

- * Christians differ in their gifts, in opportunities for service, but behind all the variety is the one unifying author: God Himself.

d. How many different gifts are there?

- * We will be taking a brief look at the different spiritual gifts specifically mentioned in the NT, though this is not necessarily exhaustive.
- * They simply include many of the ways in which the Spirit works through us.
- * The gifts do, however, seem to fall into 3 different categories (kinds of gifts).
- * I have divided them up into three main categories of similar groupings.
 - * Manifestation gifts (spontaneous) (1 Cor. 12:1-11)
 - * Motivation gifts (resident) (Rom. 12:6-10)
 - * Ministry gifts (resident office) (Eph. 4:11)
- * Don't get hardening of the categories--there is some overlap, blur.

e. Manifestation Gifts (Spontaneous)

- * All gifts are supernaturally given, but this group is more obviously so.
- * There are 9 of these gifts listed in Scripture.
- * They do not appear to be resident within the believer, but require a special spontaneous move of the Holy Spirit.

(1) Word of Knowledge (1 Cor. 12:8)

Definition

- * A supernaturally given word of information to provide data for God's people in specific times of need.
- * It is the special ability that God gives when facts are needed that cannot possibly be learned through the normal human channels.

Example

- * If you are praying for someone at the altar, and the HS tells you that they are struggling with depression & they are contemplating suicide.
- * Or say you are talking with someone, and the Holy Spirit tells you that they have abdominal cancer.
- * Jesus and the woman at the well (John 4:16-17)
- * Acts 5:3 Peter with Ananias and Saphira.
- * 1 Sam. 9:15-20 Lord told Samuel Saul would be the next king
- * 1 Kings 19:14-18 God told Elijah who would succeed him

(2) Word of Wisdom (1 Cor. 12:8)

Definition

- * A supernaturally given word of wise counsel to provide guidance for God's people in specific times of need.
- * This is not a storehouse of wisdom.
- * It is a fragment of God's wisdom that comes by revelation.
- * Suddenly you know the wise thing to say or do, which you had no human way of knowing.
- * Example: If the person was depressed, you suddenly know how to counsel that person, what they need to do to deal with their problem.

Examples of the gift in Scripture

- * Acts 6:1-7 The apostles came up w/steps to solve their problem.
- * Acts 23:6-9 Paul knew how to answer the Sanhedrin in a way that would take the focus off of himself & turn it back onto them.
- * Matt. 21:25; 22:21 When challengers tried to trick Jesus, he said “render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s, and unto God what is God’s.”

(3) **Discerning of spirits** (1 Cor. 12:10)

Definition

- * A supernatural ability to determine the true source of a given action/behavior.
- * Ability to see into the spirit realm whether a certain behavior claimed to be of God is in reality divine, human, or satanic.

Examples of the gift in Scripture

- * Acts 8:23 Peter sensed with Simon the sorcerer that he was full of bitterness and sin.
- * Acts 16:16-18 Paul and Silas were able to listen to the slave girl, and though she was saying things that sounded true in the natural, they discerned that she was demon possessed and cast the demon out.

(4) **Faith** (1 Cor. 12:9; 13:2)

Definition

- * A supernatural ability to trust God for the miraculous. Ability to believe God for something that He wants to do in such a measure that it will come to pass.
- * Whoever wrote this announcement does not have the gift of faith:
“During the pastor’s illness, Wednesday’s healing service will be discontinued until further notice.”
- * We laugh, yet often Christian’s are afraid to pray because we don’t have faith.
- * The gift of faith often operates in conjunction with other gifts.
- * For example, it could precede a healing or a miracle.
- * Example: Betty Baxter (Dean Gamber’s Evangelist wife)
As a child, Betty Baxter had been bed-ridden and crippled from a spinal disease. Though she had been bedridden for years, when she was 15 years old the Lord told her that he was going to heal her the following September. As the day drew nearer, she could hardly contain herself. She could not wait, but told everyone that God was going to heal her. She asked her mother to buy her a new dress and a new pair of shoes, for when God healed her she wanted to go to church. She also asked hr mom to invite all of the family and neighbors to be in the room on that day, so that they could witness God healing her. Now that is confidence (faith) that God will work. And you know what, when that day came, God healed her completely and she walked out of the room and to church.
- * *Note: We must make sure and keep a clear distinction between the diff. kinds of faith: natural faith (farmer); saving faith; the fruit of the Spirit faith (character; faithfulness; the gift of faith IS related to the miraculous.*

Examples of the gift in scripture:

- * 1 Kings 18 Elijah on Mt. Carmel; he challenged 450 prophets of Baal to a duel, and did everything he could to “egg” them on.
- * Acts 3:1ff Peter and John heal lame man “don’t have \$, but what we have we will give to you...”

(5) Gifts of Healings (1 Cor. 12:9, 28, 30)

Definition

- * A supernatural power to heal diseases and infirmities. A supernaturally given ability to bring healing to sick minds and bodies.
- * The double plural may suggest different kinds of illnesses and the various ways God heals them.
- * Remember, this is spontaneous not resident (not simply medical training).
- * God provides the church with gifts of healing, not healers.
- * Personal illustration: Cheryl’s face, acid burn.

Examples of the gift in scripture:

- * Gospels: Jesus’ ministry was characterized by healing the sick.
- * Acts 3:1-10 Peter and John heal lame man
- * Acts 5:12-16 and elsewhere, apostles heal many.

(6) The working of miracles (1 Cor. 12:10, 28-29)

Definition

- * A supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature. It reveals the presence and power of God, and will accomplish some practical and beneficial work.
- * Human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to perform powerful acts that are perceived to have altered the ordinary course of nature.
- * The law of nature is overtaken by a higher law.

Examples of the gift in scripture:

- * Ex. 14:21-31 (Parting of the Red Sea)
- * 1 Kg. 17:7-16 The widow at Zaraphath fed Elijah, and God never let her flour or oil go empty throughout the famine.
- * Mt. 14:14-21 (Feeding of the 5000 w/ 5 loaves and 2 fish)
- * Acts 9:40 (Peter raised Tabitha from the Dead)

Examples of the gift today:

- * Monty Hipp, while logging a tree got out of control and rolled down the hill straight toward him. He yelled out to God-the tree stopped right in front of him.
- * Juan Farrugia (pastors in Chile) had no money, but needed to get to a ministry meeting. They went 300 km on an empty tank of gas.
- * Theodora Tandoh (wife of pastor in Tanzania) did not have food to feed her family. She only had eggs, so she set out to cook them. But then she realized that she had no oil to cook the eggs. She began to cry and ask God how he could leave them this way. At that moment, the doorbell

- rang, and her non-Christian neighbor stood there w/a cup of oil for her.
- * Cheryl had an empty can of hair spray last 6 weeks in Boise.
 - * Call these things coincidences if you like, but I'm glad that my God deals in bringing about "coincidences" at the exact moment when believers pray for them.

(7) **Prophecy** (1 Cor. 12:10; 14:3)

Definition

- * A supernaturally given message from God which edifies, exhorts, or comforts the people of God. It is in a known tongue.
- * It is intelligible speech, preferable to uninterpreted tongues (1Co 14:5,9,19)
- * It is a spontaneous extra-ordinary working of the Spirit (not a sermon).
- * It is primarily directed toward the body, but can benefit both the body and sinners.
 - Four-fold purpose (1 Cor. 14:3, 22, 24):*
 - * edifies = builds up (14:3)
 - * exhorts = earnestly prompt or urge to do something (14:3)
 - * comforts = encourages (14:3)
 - * convicts non-believers (14:24)
- * The prophet is not overpowered, but is in control (1 Cor. 14:31-33).

Prophecy Is not Infallible (People make mistakes)

- * It is not infallible, because men and women are not infallible.
- * Here are some actual "prophesies" which have been heard:
 - * "And even as Moses built the ark, saith God, So I...uh, yea, I am wrong, saith the Lord, I meant Noah, and even as Noah built the ark..."
 - * "Yea, there is fear in the east, and yea, there is fear in the west, and I myself fear, saith the Lord."
 - * "Yea, I am the omniscient God, saith the Lord, and so far as I know..."
 - * "Thus saith the Lord, I am not in this place."
- * These just go to illustrate that human's are not infallible.
- * Don't be afraid to call something into question if you don't think it's of God.
- * We should be more afraid of *not* calling into question something that is not of God.

Guidelines for evaluating prophecy

- * The Bible says that those in congregation should evaluate the prophecy.
- * Seven standards by which to judge a prophecy
 - * Is it scriptural?
 - * Does it strengthen (build up/edify) the body?
 - * Does it comfort (encourage/uplift) the body?
 - * Does it exhort (challenge) the body? (1 Cor. 14:3)
 - * Is it given in love? (1 Cor. 13)
 - * Is Jesus glorified? (1 Cor. 12:3)
 - * If it is predictive in nature does it come to pass?

Discussion Prophecy and Scripture

- * Should prophecy be considered equal with Scripture?"
- * No, or we wouldn't have to judge the message.
- * We realize that sometimes human emotions/will can involved too, and that is why we must evaluate them.

Discussion: Prophecy and Guidance

- * A lady once told me that I was God's choice for her son (and it wasn't Jay's mom).
 - * Never do something just because someone says, "the Lord told me to tell you."
 - * If the Lord has instructions for you, he will tell you, and the message will confirm what you already know by the Spirit.
 - * Example of Pastor Seaward's prophecy the very week Jay and I had received a call from Del Tarr.
 - * Also, guidance must always line up with the Word.
-

(8) **Gift of Tongues** (1 Cor. 12:10, 28)

Definition

- * A supernaturally given utterance in a language that has not been learned by the speaker. The ultimate purpose is to edify the people of God.
- * The gift of tongues needs to be kept distinguished from the evidence of tongues as associated with the baptism in the HS.
- * One is an evidence that all who are filled will have, the second is a specific spontaneous event, for corporate use in the body, given only as the Spirit wills.
- * It can only edify the entire body when there is an interpretation (14:2-11).

(9) **Interpretation of Tongues** (1 Cor. 12:10, 30)

- * *Show comic: I need help with these tax forms...does anyone have...*

Definition

- * A supernaturally given interpretation of an utterance which was given in an unknown language.
- * This is required if tongues are to be intelligible and beneficial to the body.
- * It functions like prophecy.
- * This is not a gift of translation, but interpretation.
- * It may not be exactly a word for word literal translation, but the meaning is there.
- * Example: Hobson at Cedar Park, lady spoke in perfect Hebrew. The man who gave the interpretation gave the same basic message

- * *We have taken a look at what we termed the "Gifts of Manifestation" (spontaneous).*
- * *They are given for a specific circumstance by a spontaneous move of the Holy Spirit.*
- * *Now we move to the second grouping of spiritual gifts: Gifts of Motivation.*

f. Motivation Gifts (Resident or Temperament Gifts)

- * Read Romans 12:4-8 and 1 Cor. 12:28-29
- * This group of supernatural gifts seem to become resident within the faithful believer enabling him or her to continuously minister to the body of Christ.

* *Let's examine each of these gifts.*

(1) Serving (Rom. 12:7; 1 Pet. 4:11)

Definition

- * The special ability to identify the unmet needs involved in a task related to God's work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired goals.
- * Don't serve in a way that brings the attention on yourself, but that gives glory to God (1 Pet. 4:11).

Comic: "I want to be a servant until they started treating me like one"

Characteristics of someone with this gift

- * Alertness to detect and meet practical needs
- * Will to fulfill needs regardless of weariness
- * Willingness to use own funds to avoid delays
- * Capacity to be involved in many activities
- * Frustration at limitations of time

(2) Teaching (Word of Instruction) (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 14:6, 26)

Definition

- * The special ability to communicate information relevant to the health and ministry of the body and its members in such a way that others will learn.
- * Not just talking about amassed human knowledge.
- * The ability to instruct the members of the church in the Bible and its application to life.

Characteristics of someone with this gift

- * Believe that this gift is foundational to the others
- * Delight in research in order to validate truth
- * Enjoy presenting truth in a systematic sequence
- * Experience resistance to biblical illustrations taken out of context
- * Get almost greater joy researching than presenting

(3) Encouraging (Exhortation) (Rom. 12:8)

Definition

- * The special ability to minister words of comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counsel to other members of the body in such a way that they feel helped and healed.
- * Urging someone to act on God's truth as known and taught.

- * Comforting those who need it, through Biblical truth.
- * Verbal encouragement and lifting up. (Cheerful attitude)
- * Results in getting person to do something. Moved to action/response.

Characteristics of someone with this gift

- * Feel urgency for spiritual growth and specific action
- * Have tendency to avoid theoretical speculation
- * Have ability to see tribulation as an aid to maturity
- * Insist on outward proof of an inward conviction
- * Often enjoys counseling others

(4) Giving (Rom. 12:8)

Definition

- * The special ability to contribute one's material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness.
- * Involves both the means and the will to give to meet the needs of others.
- * One does not have to be rich to have this gift (widow's mite)
- * It is simply one who holds assets lightly.

Characteristics of someone with this gift

- * Has ability to make wise purchases and investments (Grandpa Marr)
- * Desires to give quietly to effective projects
- * Attempts to use own giving to motivate others to give
- * Finds joy when own giving is an answer to prayer
- * Desires to feel a part of the supported cause

(5) Leadership (Ruling) (Rom. 12:8)

Definition

- * The special ability to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate these goals to others in church a way that they voluntarily & harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God.
- * Used primarily of elders/pastors who exercising vision-casting in the church
- * Lead people through a difficult situation or dispute.
- * Example: CCC moved a building.

Characteristics of someone with this gift

- * Has ability to see the overall picture and goals
- * Aware of available resources
- * Has ability to know what can or cannot be delegated
- * Has tendency to assume responsibility as needed (rise to occasion)
- * Willing to endure reactions from critics

(6) Mercy (Rom. 12:8)

Definition

- * The special ability to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals (Christian and non-Christian) who suffer distressing physical, mental, or emotional problems, and to translate that compassion into cheerfully-done deeds which reflect Christ's love and alleviate the suffering.
- * Getting involved in life's basket cases. Pity/compassion/sensitivity
- * Especially physical needs (hunger, sickness, etc.)

Characteristics of someone with this gift

- * Has ability to sense an atmosphere of joy or distress
- * Attracted to people in trouble
- * Desires to remove hurts and to bring healing
- * Sensitive to inconsiderate words and actions
- * Tend to be closed to insincere and insensitive people

(7) **Helps** (1 Cor. 12:28)

Definition

- * The special ability to invest the talents one has in the lives and ministries of other Christians, for the purpose of helping them increase their effectiveness.
- * To lend a helping hand in the support of the ministries of the church.
- * There may be some overlap or similarities with the gift of serving.
- * The Greek implies responding to a request to do a particular job.

(8) **Administration** (1 Cor. 12:28)

Definition

- * The special ability to understand clearly the immediate and long-range goals of a particular unit of the body of Christ and to devise and execute effective plans for the accomplishment of those goals.
- * Ability to plan, organize, and carry out various aspects of church activity.
- * Administrators tend to be organized and structured
- * Illustration: D.V. Hurst. He devises and executes plans to reach goals.

(9) **Celibacy** (1 Cor. 7:7,8; Matt. 19:10-11)

- * The special ability to be comfortable in his singleness. To be unmarried and not suffer undue sexual temptations.
- * Other gifts must accompany this. It does not stand alone.
- * Story of lady in Boise church who "had this gift" but she was married.
- * You don't have this gift if you are married.
- * The gift you never give.

(10) **Martyrdom** (1 Cor. 13:3; Heb. 11)

The special ability to undergo suffering for the faith even to death, while consistently displaying a joyous and victorious attitude that brings glory to God.

- * The gift you only use once.

(11) **Voluntary Poverty** (1 Cor. 13:1-3; Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-37; 2 Cor. 6:10; 8:9)

- * The special ability to renounce material comfort and luxury and adopt a personal lifestyle equivalent to those living at the poverty level in a given

society in order to serve God more effectively.

- * Those who have this gift also have the gift of giving, but not vice versa.
- * Example of Ralleigh Farrell (2 PhD-Has given up everything. Owns nothing)

(12) **Hospitality** (1 Pet. 4:9-10; Rom 12:9-13; 16:23; Acts 16:14-15; Heb. 13:1-2)

- * The special ability to provide open house and warm welcome for those in need of food and lodging. The love of strangers.
 - * Offer hospitality to traveling missionaries and teachers
 - * To use your home for the church to worship in
 - * To do this without grumbling
- “True hospitality is making people feel at home when you wish they were at home.” (Donald Coggan, former archbishop of Canterbury)

(13) **Exorcism** (Matt. 12:22-32; Luke 10:12-20; Acts 8:5-8; 16:16-18)

- * The special ability to cast out demons and evil spirits.

(14) **Intercession**

- * Jms 5:14-16; 1Tim 2:1-2; Col 1:9-12; 4:12-14; Acts 12:12; Lk 22:41-44)
- * The special ability to pray for extended periods of time on a regular basis,

and see frequent and specific answers to prayers, to a degree much greater than that which is expected of the average Christian.

greater

g. Ministry Gifts

- * Remember we said that there are three groupings of spiritual gifts.
- * The third group are the ministry gifts (apostle, prophet, evangelist pastor/teacher)
- * We will discuss this group in more detail in our unit on the church.

h. Using our Spiritual Gifts

- * *Now that we have seen potential areas of gifting, what are we supposed to do about it?*

(1) **Recognize the ways that God has gifted you.**

- * Every Christian has been given one or more spiritual gifts.
- * See Romans 12:6; Eph. 4:7; 1 Cor. 12:7; 1 Pet. 4:10
- * These are given as the Spirit determines; He knows what's best.
- * They are not of our own human effort or ability/we cannot work for them.

(2) **Determine what you are going to do with your gift(s).**

(a) *Some do not want or accept or try to ignore their gift.*

- * They understand that it brings responsibility, and they don't want it.
- * Illustration: If I offer _____ \$100.00 and they refuse it, you'd say they were crazy.

(b) *Some do not use their gift because they wanted other gifts*

- * Some have their own ideas about what gifts they would like to receive.
- * “I received the gifts of celibacy and voluntary poverty, but I wanted....”
- * Illustration: I have two cars to give away: a Mercedes Benz and a Toyota
- * _____ rejects the Toyota because he/she wanted the Mercedes.
- * He just leaves the Toyota sitting in his driveway-refuses to use it.

(c) *Some do not use their gifts wisely*

- * Some do not use our gifts wisely or invest them in the body.
- * They use them for their own profit.
- * Illustration: Story of 15 street kid in our church in Boise who received \$50,000 inheritance and had it all spent within one month on food, clothes, limousines, and hotels. It was the total waste of a gift that he could have invested.
- * So it is with some of us. God has invested gifts in us, and we do not use them wisely or invest them in the body.
- * We need to step out in faith and be used by the Spirit as He enables us.

(d) *Wise people use their gifts to bring glory to God*

- * Acknowledge your gifts (the Holy Spirit knows best)
- * Choose to be a good steward of the gifts God has invested in you. Invest it for the Kingdom.
- * Carry out the gift IN LOVE! (I Cor. 13, 14:1)
- * Gifts were not primarily for private individual enrichment, but for the benefit of all.

Discussion

- * Have you ever been in a church that seems like they are forever begging for help?
- * Every time you turn around they need someone to teach S.S., lead a small group, help in the nursery, ushers, etc.
- * Maybe the church is going about it wrong.
- * Maybe we're just looking for bodies to fill a role, rather than people to carry out their giftings.
- * Example: Cheryl working in the church daycare. She went nuts.
- * Example: Churches starting specialized ministries (James River auto mechanics)

Discussion

- * Why do we have so many people just filling roles?
 - * No other options (people to serve)
 - * Someone saw a need and responded
 - * Someone is trying out different areas to find out their giftings
 - * Someone is using it as a stepping stone to other ministries
 - * Insecurity--afraid to take on greater challenge
 - * Pastors determine the ministries of the church instead of designing programs based on the giftings of the people
 - * Pastors tend to be last minute, don't plan ahead so we are simply scrambling to find warm bodies.

Closing Challenge:

- * My desire is that this discussion has encouraged you to identify and put into service your own unique gift/s.
- * The church can never be successful until we began utilizing the great resource that has been provided us.
- * There is great potential when a group of people become sensitive to being used by the Spirit.

Review

* We have been talking about ways that the Holy Spirit works in our lives.

* So far we've seen that:

1. Following our conversion, He is involved in regeneration.
2. He is involved in our ongoing sanctification.
3. He works to bring us to maturity (Fruit)
4. He baptizes with power for Christian life and ministry.
5. He gives spiritual gifts for ministry.

* Today we will briefly mention 3 final ways the Holy Spirit works in our lives...

6. He assists in giving us guidance and direction.

Following are some of the ways the Holy Spirit leads us:

- a. He speaks through the Word of God (illumination).
- b. He speaks through a still, small voice (prayer)
- c. He speaks through circumstances (opens and closes doors)
- d. He speaks through "supernatural means" (Dreams, visions, gifts of the Spirit)
- e. He speaks through providence

7. He assists in our prayer.

- a. The Holy Spirit Helps our Weaknesses (Rom. 8:26)
- b. The Holy Spirit Intercedes for us (Rom. 8:26)
- c. The Holy Spirit Intercedes in God's Will (Rom. 8:27)
- d. The Holy Spirit Frees the spirit to Pray (I Cor. 14:14-15)
- e. The Holy Spirit Provides Spiritual Weaponry (Eph. 6:18)
- f. The Holy Spirit Builds Us Up (Jude 20; I Cor. 14:4)

* *Show comic: Charlie Brown--Spirit speaks with groans which can't be...*

8. He assists in productive church life.

- a. Entrance in the church is affected by the Holy Spirit.
- b. He assists the church in fellowship.
- c. He assist the church in unity.
- d. He gives the body spiritual gifts.
- e. He assists the church in worship (he is the energizer).

Conclusion

* It is so exciting as we begin to realize what a resource we have in the Holy Spirit.

* He keeps us on the right track, and challenges us into deeper things of God.

* He empowers us for Christians service, and helps us to grow in those areas that will bring honor and glory to God.

