

**THE GIVER AND THE GIFTS**  
**WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES IN THE CHRISTIAN AND IN THE CHURCH**  
**Session 2: The Spiritual Gifts**  
*02.24.08*

**INTRODUCTION**

**DIFFERENT VIEWS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK TODAY**

**UNDERSTANDING THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*THE IMPORTANCE OF GENRE*

**Narrative:**

**Epistle:**

**Empowered by the Spirit<sup>1</sup>**

In addition to effecting regeneration and sanctification, the Holy Spirit also empowers believers for Christian witness and service. While all genuine believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit at conversion, the New Testament indicates the importance of an ongoing, empowering work of the Spirit subsequent to conversion as well. Being indwelt by the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit are theologically distinct experiences. The Holy Spirit desires to fill each believer continually with increased power for Christian life and witness, and imparts his supernatural gifts for the edification of the Body and for various works of ministry in the world. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit at work in the church of the first-century are available today, are vital for the mission of the church, and are to be earnestly desired and practiced.

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<sup>1</sup> From the Sovereign Grace Church Statement of Faith

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**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?**

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.” (1Cor 12:4-7,11 ESV)

1. **To each is given a manifestation...**
  
2. **...for the common good...**
  
3. **...as He wills.**

**DEFINING SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

“In light of this, we may define a spiritual gift as a God-given, and therefore gracious, capacity to serve the body of Christ. It is a divinely empowered or spiritually energized potential to minister to the body of Christ by communicating the knowledge, power, and love of Jesus.” Sam Storms<sup>2</sup>

“A spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church. Wayne Grudem<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *The Beginner's Guide to Spiritual Gifts*, 20.

<sup>3</sup> *Systematic Theology*, 1016.

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<b>WHAT ARE THE GIFTS?</b>
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- A. Word of wisdom: explaining to others a Spirit inspired insight into some aspect of God's redemptive purposes...and perhaps the illumination of others with the saving power of the gospel.<sup>4</sup>
- B. Word of knowledge: a Spirit-empowered ability to gain insights into and explain various aspects of the Christian faith and life, resulting in the instruction and edification of others.<sup>5</sup>
- C. Faith: the mysterious surge of confidence which gives a person a certainty and assurance that God is about to act through a word or an action.<sup>6</sup>
- D. Gifts of healing: perhaps many different gifts or powers of healing, each appropriate to and effective for its related illness, or each occurrence constituting a distinct gift in its own right.<sup>7</sup>
- E. Miracles: any kind of activity where God's mighty power is evident.<sup>8</sup>
- F. Prophecy:
  - 1. Telling others what God has brought to mind.<sup>9</sup>
  - 2. Declaring the current burden or heart of God to his people for the purpose of edification (build up), exhortation (stir up) and consolation (cheer up).<sup>10</sup>
- G. Distinguishing of spirits: a special ability to recognize the influence of the Holy Spirit or of a demonic spirit in a person.<sup>11</sup>
- H. Tongues: prayer or praise spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker.<sup>12</sup>
- I. Teaching: the ability to explain Scripture and apply it to people's lives.<sup>13</sup>
- J. Helps/Serving: the ability to notice the needs of others and the desire and capacity to respond in helpful ways.

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<sup>4</sup> Jeff Purswell, *The Non-Spectacular Gifts*, outline from 1998 PDI Small Group Leaders Conf., p. 65.

<sup>5</sup> Purswell, p. 69.

<sup>6</sup> Brent Detwiler, *The Gifts of the Holy Spirit*, unpublished outline.

<sup>7</sup> Sam Storms, *The Beginner's Guide to Spiritual Gifts*, p. 61.

<sup>8</sup> Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, p. 1062.

<sup>9</sup> Grudem, p. 1049.

<sup>10</sup> Detwiler, p. 4.

<sup>11</sup> Grudem, p. 1082.

<sup>12</sup> Grudem, p. 1070.

<sup>13</sup> Grudem, p. 1061

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- K. Administration: the ability to steer, organize, direct and lead people, projects and ministries so that the mission of the church is carried out.
- L. Exhortation: the ability to speak to others in a way that magnifies God and results in them experiencing comfort, encouragement, inspiration, and strengthening.
- M. Leadership: the ability to guide and direct the church in such a way that God is glorified, the church is unified and the church's mission is accomplished.
- N. Showing mercy: the ability to identify with the emotions and feelings of others and to aid those in need or distress.<sup>14</sup>

**THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

“But earnestly desire the higher gifts.” (1Cor 12:31 ESV)

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

“On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.” (1Cor 14:3 ESV)

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

“The Triune God loves diversity – so much so, as someone has remarked, that when he sends a snowstorm he makes each flake different. We, however, manufacture ice cubes. Doubtless the church is in some sense like a mighty army, but that does not mean we should think of ourselves as undifferentiated khaki. We should be more like an orchestra: each part making its own unique contribution to the symphonic harmony... God establishes his brand of harmony by a lavish grant of highly diverse gifts, each contributing to the body as a whole.”<sup>15</sup>

**BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS**

Storms, Sam: *The Beginner's Guide to the Spiritual Gifts*.  
Carson, D.A.: *Showing the Spirit*.  
Grudem, Wayne: *Are Miraculous Gifts for Today?*

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<sup>14</sup> Detwiler, p. 6.

<sup>15</sup> D.A. Carson, *Showing the Spirit*, p. 32.

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**VIEWS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT’S WORK TODAY**

<i>What are different views of the Holy Spirit’s work today called?</i>	<b>CESSATIONIST</b>	<b>CONTINUATIONIST</b>		
		<b>PENTECOSTAL</b>	<b>CHARISMATIC</b>	<b>“THIRD WAVE”</b>
<i>When did this view emerge?</i>	Various times in church history.	Early 20 <sup>th</sup> cent.	1960s-1970s	1980s-1990s
<i>How does the Holy Spirit continue to work today?</i>	The Holy Spirit is active today in Christians and in the church through regeneration, illumination, sanctification, etc.			
<i>Are spiritual gifts for today?</i>	The more miraculous gifts were given only during the time of the apostles, as “signs” to authenticate the apostles during the early preaching of the gospel. The gifts are no longer needed as signs today and ceased at end of the apostolic age. <sup>1</sup>	All the gifts described in the New Testament are available today and to be eagerly pursued by all Christians.		
<i>What is the baptism in the Holy Spirit?</i>	Baptism in the Holy Spirit is synonymous with being born of the Spirit. <sup>2</sup>	Baptism in the Holy Spirit is an event in the life of a believer that is typically subsequent to conversion, resulting in power for witness and service.	Baptism in the Holy Spirit happens to all Christians at conversion; subsequent experiences are better called ‘filling’ with the Spirit. <sup>3</sup>	
<i>How does the gift of tongues function?</i>	See above.	A necessary evidence that a Christian has been baptized in the Holy Spirit	One of many gifts that some Christians may experience. This gift is intended for the edification of believers and, if accompanied by interpretation, for the church.	

<sup>1</sup> Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, p. 1031.

<sup>2</sup> Malcolm B. Yarnell, III, *A Theology for the Church*, Daniel Akin, ed., p. 670.

<sup>3</sup> Grudem, p. 763.

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**GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Romans 12:6-8	1 Corinthians 7:7	1 Corinthians 12:8-10	1 Corinthians 12:28	Ephesians 4:11	1 Peter 4:11
1. Prophecy 2. Serving 3. Teaching 4. Encouraging 5. Contributing 6. Leadership 7. Mercy	1. Marriage 2. Singleness	1. Utterance of wisdom 2. Utterance of knowledge 3. Faith 4. Gifts of healings 5. Miracles 6. Prophecy 7. Distinguishing between spirits 8. Tongues 9. Interpretation of tongues	1. Apostle 2. Prophet 3. Teacher 4. Miracles 5. Gift of healings 6. Helps 7. Administration 8. Tongues	1. Apostle 2. Prophet 3. Evangelist 4. Pastor 5. Teacher	1. Speaking 2. Serving