

Holy Spirit Power

May 6th, 2018 - Holy Spirit Power
Part 5

This teaching on the Holy Spirit is so powerful. Many churches that used to be fervent in the manifestations and gifts of the Holy Spirit have become dull and lukewarm, so it's time to teach and preach again that the Holy Spirit has not left or gone anywhere, it's us, the church, that has to start earnestly and passionately yielding to him to see his gifts in manifestation.

Today's message is about talents or gifts, how we use them and what the Lord expects of us in their use. We read a short script that I'd encourage you to read first. Please click on this link to read. It's from BobSnook.org and it's entitled "Talents".

The manifestation of the Holy Spirit gifts, operate on a partner basis with God and man, and are not just manifestations of the Spirit which require no human responsibility to be involved in its operation. It's not that God just pours out his Spirit, but you're very much involved in it as a co-partner.

Christians operating in the gifts of the Spirit have to take responsibility for the gift operating thru them, otherwise when they make mistakes in its demonstration, it would be too easy to blame it on God and not receive instruction when the gifts are operating out of order by them. God is a God of order and one who operates in the gifts of the Holy Spirit needs to learn that. They need to be teachable as they grow in their gift.

The Apostle Paul gives clear instruction as to how gifts are to operate as we read in **1 Corinthians 14:23-32**; *"Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you." How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets."*

You may have seen in services where someone raises their voice in either a message in tongues (spoken or sung), there then needs to be someone else with the gift of interpretation of tongues to be able to interpret it, or the one who delivers it must trust God to give them the interpretation also. If there isn't interpretation, it's disruptive and out of order. The supernatural word of the Lord will minister to the uninformed or unsaved person. The person who delivers and yields to these gifts is being obedient to use the talents that Holy Spirit has given them.

Paul is not talking about the Spirit of God where he says *"And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets,"* but rather the spirit of the prophet. It's clear in these scriptures that the prophet is to take responsibility for how and when he is to manifest the gifts in an orderly way. The Spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet, but the partnership of the Holy Spirit in the operation of this gift is important and neither are indispensable. It's an exchange, one can't operate without the other. God's chosen you and you qualify to be the messenger of what the Holy Spirit wants to say and do. The Holy Spirit is a gentleman and will not just take over a person.

Holy Spirit Power

In **Matthew 25:14-30**, Jesus talks about the parable of the talents. He is actually referring to himself as the man who travels to a far country – where is Jesus now – in heaven and we eagerly await his return. He also gave us the Holy Spirit and gave all these gifts that he expects us to use and be a steward of. He expects obedience from us as we read in this scripture.

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord. He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him and give it to him who has ten talents. ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

God has given gifts, callings and elections for you to be a steward of as we read in I Corinthians 14. You’re not to bury them but step out into them. Jesus said in **Luke 18:8**; “...nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” Have you been or are you operating in the gift or gifts that the Holy Spirit has given you? Do you have faith to believe he’s given you gifts? If not, ask him and he’ll show you.

The stewards did not own the talents, and it is the same with gifts of the Holy Spirit, you don’t own them, you are stewards and you have to give an account on how you used them. So let’s fast-forward to the judgement seat of Christ where each of us will stand some day and give an account of our lives. I believe we’ll have to give an account for the gifts that you or I have, or have not operated in. That’s what Jesus said in the scripture we just read. What are or have you done with the gifts of the spirit since you’ve been a Christian, you will have to give an accounting some day for your stewardship. You don’t have to face a bad judgement watching everything that was wood, hay and stubble go up in smoke, but you stand with the precious stones which still stand after being tested with the fire. God can say to you, ‘well done good and faithful servant’.

Some believe that God says that just referring to the fact that you made it into heaven. It’s more than that though, he’ll ask you what you did with His gifts that he’s given you from the time you were born again until the time you die. Reflect earnestly about that today and repent if you haven’t yielded to the Holy Spirit and used the gifts he’s given you to use. This should motivate you today.

Go to this link when you have time to read it. It’s by Matthew Henry and he gives sobering insight into the neglect of using our God given gifts. <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/matthew-henry/Matt.25.14-Matt.25.30>

Holy Spirit Power

1 Corinthians 12:27-28 simply says; “*Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.*”

When you are given these gifts from the Holy Spirit, He is qualifying you for service in the church body. So if God has given these gifts individually, as He wills, then it’s important to be a good steward of the gift and operate in it. For everyone in the Church has at least one of these gifts to be a steward of and someday give an accounting of it to God on the day of judgement with regards to his or her stewardship of it.

The gifts of the Spirit are gifts and manifestations that are imparted to believers as He wills. These nine spirituals are named both manifestations and gifts. **1 Corinthians 12:4-11** says; “*There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the **word of wisdom** through the Spirit, to another the **word of knowledge** through the same Spirit, to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healings** by the same Spirit, to another the **working of miracles**, to another **prophecy**, to another **discerning of spirits**, to another **different kinds of tongues**, to another the **interpretation of tongues**. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*”

In verse 4 it says; “*There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit*”, and in verse 7 it says; “*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.*”

We read in **1 Corinthians 12:31**; “*But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.*” And also, in **1 Corinthians 12:28**; “*And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.*”

We need to recognize the gifts of the Spirit as both gifts and manifestations and that we are to covet the best gifts. The ‘best gift’ that the Apostle Paul is talking about is not in reference to the ministry gifts found in verse 28, otherwise he’d be saying that we are all to covet the offices of apostleship and prophet and teacher etc. The rest of this text shows that Paul is referring to these 9 gifts of the Spirit we are to earnestly covet because he mentions some of them again as he did in verses 8-10, “*...after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.*”

So we have the 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit, verses 8-10 and the ministry gifts which are mentioned in the beginning of verse 28.

There is a gift of healing, that not everyone has, it’s a specific gift that a believer operates in when qualified to do so by the Holy Spirit as he wills to divide severally in the church body. The Holy Spirit knows who qualifies by knowing what’s in the heart of the believer and will divide or give to every man severally as he wills, not as man wills. God has the right to manifest his gifts through any believer any time he wants to regardless of external qualifications lacking in that believer at the time.

The Prophet Samuel and King David’s dad both overlooked David to be the Anointed King, but God saw the heart of David and anointed him.

Again, these 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:7-10 are ours to operate in. And we’re all to operate in at least one of them if not more. Maybe you haven’t yet or haven’t been in sync with Him. It’s important to reiterate, this is not a general blanket statement of being filled and baptized with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. We’re talking about 9 specific gifts of the Holy Spirit that you co-partner with to bring edification to the church body with. So if you bury it and don’t use it, you’ll have to give an

Holy Spirit Power

account of it to God in heaven. No if's, but's or maybe's. If you haven't been a good steward of the gifts or if you've never yielded to the gifts the Holy Spirit has given to you, maybe repent and then step out and see God use you in a powerful way for the edification of the saints.

Paul speaks about the imparting a spiritual gift in **Romans 1:11** where it says; *“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—”*. Paul is referring to not only the Church as a whole, but individual members possessing these gifts he wants to impart. That's how special you are today, co-partnering with the Holy Spirit, being a good steward of the gifts he's given to you. He's not looking at the outward qualifications that you may or may not have. The Holy Spirit isn't looking to see how much money you have, or your education, your theological studies, your music career, your successful altar calls, the good ministry track record that you have that opens up doors for you to preach in different places, etc. No, He's looking at your heart and he wants to impart very precious gifts to you.

What the Holy Spirit does on his part, is always perfect, but the gifts can be misused by believers. Here's a good example in **Luke 9:51-56**; *“Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?” But He turned and rebuked them, and said, “You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them.” And they went to another village.”*

James and John didn't like the attitude the Samaritans had towards Jesus and they got in the flesh and had not Christ put a restrainer on them, they would have called fire down from heaven. The gift was operating there to call down fire, but it was out of a wrong spirit that they would have done it in. Hence, Jesus rebuked them. Maybe you can remember looking back over the years, the misuse of the gifts because people got in the flesh.

1 Corinthians 14:29-32 again shows how our human spirit can and needs to at times be restrained. It says; *“Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.”* There is a timing in all functions of the Spirit. Prophets are to manifest their gifts in a certain order, and if need be restrained to operate in other specific circumstances.

The gifts of the Spirit are to be used in a joint venture with God, not independent of him which will always lead to misusing the gifts given you. So today, we have to look closely at our lives and see where we have not been good stewards of the gifts God has given. Whether you haven't been using them or if you've been misusing them, you need to examine your heart today and repent of either or both. Recognize that the Holy Spirit needs you as a vessel to be able to carry the gifts and fulfill the great commission. You don't need to feel goosebumps or the anointing, no, you need to co-partner and sync yourself with the Holy Spirit so he can use you with his gifts for whatever circumstance you're in.

Don't bury your talent, don't bury your gift – use it!