

# HOLY SPIRIT POWER

---

May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - Holy Spirit Power  
Part 6

Has Christ given you a ministry gift? We talked about it last week so we trust that you've thought and prayed about it. Maybe you've discerned what it is or what they are. If so, are you presently positioned in the church and operating in your gift or gifts to build up and edify your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ? If you're more concerned about your career than your ministry gift being used to edify and build the church, then its time to re-establish your order of priority's in life and begin using the gifts of God not in a secondary place, but rather in a #1 place of priority in life. We're in a career and works driven society with so many demands and pressures, yet as a Christian, we're to keep our spiritual gift or gifts as a priority.

The Apostle Paul's main focus to us in **I Corinthians 12** is about ministry gifts, so let's start by reading **vs. 11**; *"But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills."* And then in **vs.18** he says; *"But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased."* It's not a work of the flesh by our doing, but a work of the Holy Spirit.

The sovereign will of God is always involved in imparting the gifts of the Spirit and he choses who manifests these gifts, and no man operates in these independent of Gods sovereign will. Last week we talked about co-partnering with the Holy Spirit. You're a partner, but there is nothing equal about it. There is no equality with God. You partner with the Holy Spirit to do what he wants, not what you want. You've simply made yourself available and willing to work with him and for him. It's the Holy Spirit's choice, it's his dispensation. It has little to do with you, other than what is going on in your heart and the fact that you're born again of the Spirit. Like we said last week, it has nothing to do with the natural realm; your education, financial status, doctorate degrees etc.

We read in **1 Corinthians 12:27-31**; *"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. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way."*

Just to clarify that the tongues that he refers to here is the gift of tongues, not the tongues or prayer language that you receive when you're baptized in the Holy Spirit.

If Jesus is Lord of your life, you have the giver of these gifts living in you, and the Holy Spirit will manifest these gifts through you as he wills and will use you as a vessel to manifest these gifts and it's not you using the Holy Spirit to operate in these gifts. You're the vessel that the Holy Spirit lives in and is using. **1 Corinthians 12:7** says; *"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all."*

Manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit are given to every man, no one is exempt. Every believer has one or more of these gifts, you're a vessel, an important partner with the Holy Spirit who manifests the gift through you and its not you manifesting the gift. Keep in mind that it's a move of the Holy Spirit thru you a vessel a co-partner, and its not the opposite, the roles are never reversed.

Your natural abilities never qualify you for the gifts to operate. Paul the Apostle had exceptional background in religious training but this never qualified him to be used of God. It took 15 years of retraining after his conversion before he was really used of God in the church at Jerusalem.

## HOLY SPIRIT POWER

---

This is what he says in **Philippians 3:4-7** about himself; *“though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.”*

He also says this in **1 Corinthians 1:26-29**; *“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.”*

God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. If you’re thinking that your natural ability’s will surely qualify you for receiving gifts of the Spirit, then think again. The twelve apostles were not chosen from scholarly ranks from the school of Judaism, but rather humble positions. Not that God doesn’t use those with scholarly education, but it’s not the qualification God looks at.

Being baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues is needed for the manifestation of the Holy Spirit gifts to operate in their fullness. In order for the gifts of the Spirit to operate in the church, there is a procedure that needs to be followed. It’s the same one the disciples followed. The disciples operated in ministry gifts **prior to** the day of Pentecost where they were filled with Holy Spirit.

We read this in **Matthew 10:5-8**; *“These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”* This sounds like quite a bit of power to me, how about you? But this was **prior to Pentecost**.

The apostles operated in a measure of the Spirit, but it was after the day of Pentecost that the full dispensation of the gifts of the Spirit found in 1 Corinthians 12 were given for the building up and edifying the church under Roman and religious persecution. They operated in a measure – but a great measure. Interestingly enough, you barely see this happening today in spirit filled churches, right.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit qualified them to be used in a greater way by the Holy Spirit and we see clearly that gifts are given in fuller, much needed measure. So, if you want to qualify to be given the gifts of the Spirit found in 1 Corinthians 12, you might want to consider the early churches example to be filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues which then gave way for the manifestations found in these scriptures.

If we don’t follow the early churches example regarding the need of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we will then settle for healing the sick, casting out devils, raising the dead, and lose out on rest of the manifestations of the gifts found in 1 Corinthians 12 from operating in the local church. That’s the power! That’s why the Holy Spirit was sent.

Could this be the reason why the rest of the gifts of the Spirit are not in operation in the churches that have rejected the baptism of the Holy Spirit and believed a lie that because they operate in healing the sick, casting out devils, raising the dead, that they are filled with the Holy Spirit?

If that was the case, then Jesus would have not left the following **command** which we read in **Acts 1:4-8**, *“And being assembled together with them, He **commanded** them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you*

## HOLY SPIRIT POWER

---

*shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

Jesus said “you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit is come upon you”, but when you think about it, what can it be more powerful than casting out devils, raising the dead and healing the sick. I mean, what could they possibly experience that is more powerful than these ministry gifts. They probably couldn’t figure it out but were obedient to wait for the promise.

**Acts 2:1-4** says; *“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

I’d like to share what Matthew Henry’s Commentary says regarding verses 1-4. He says; *“II. What was the immediate effect of this? 1. They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, more plentifully and powerfully than they were before. They were filled with the graces of the Spirit, and were more than ever under his sanctifying influences—were now holy, and heavenly, and spiritual, more weaned from this world and better acquainted with the other. They were more filled with the comforts of the Spirit, rejoiced more than ever in the love of Christ and the hope of heaven, and in it all their griefs and fears were swallowed up. They were also, for the proof of this, filled with the gifts of the Holy Ghost, which are especially meant here; they were endued with miraculous powers for the furtherance of the gospel. It seems evident to me that not only the twelve apostles, but all the hundred and twenty disciples were filled with the Holy Ghost alike at this time—all the seventy disciples, who were apostolic men, and employed in the same work, and all the rest too that were to preach the gospel; for it is said expressly. Ephesians 4:8; ‘Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”’. When Christ ascended on high, he gave gifts unto men, not only some apostles (such were the twelve), but some prophets and some evangelists (such were many of the seventy disciples, itinerant preachers), and some pastors and teachers settled in particular churches, as we may suppose some of these afterwards were. The all here must refer to the all that were together, Acts 2:1; Acts 1:14, 15. 2. They began to speak with other tongues, besides their native language, though they had never learned any other. They spoke not matters of common conversation, but the word of God, and the praises of his name, as the Spirit gave them utterance, or gave them to speak apophthengesthai—apophthegms, substantial and weighty sayings, worthy to be had in remembrance. It is probable that it was not only one that was enabled to speak one language, and another another (as it was with the several families that were dispersed from Babel), but that every one was enabled to speak diverse languages, as he should have occasion to use them. And we may suppose that they understood not only themselves but one another too, which the builders of Babel did not, Gen. 11:7. They did not speak here and there a word of another tongue, or stammer out some broken sentences, but spoke it as readily, properly, and elegantly, as if it had been their mother-tongue; for whatever was produced by miracle was the best of the kind. They spoke not from any previous thought or meditation, but as the Spirit gave them utterance; he furnished them with the matter as well as the language.”*

That is power and that’s what they had in one accord and that’s what’s needed to see the continual manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the church today. If you go to **Luke 10:17-19**, you read; *“Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”*

## HOLY SPIRIT POWER

---

Again, this is **pre-Pentecost!** Just as the disciples were wowed by the power gifts, Jesus reminded them that he saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven, and then proceeds to remind them of the authority that they have over the devil.

So in the natural and supernatural you would think that the disciples were good to go, but this is not the case as we've read in Acts 1:4-8. They needed to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Jesus could have said when he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, that they were good to go and that he'd return for them. But that's not the case as we read and believe this scripture.

So, for those of you who say that you are baptized with the Holy Spirit because you operate in the gifts of healings, casting out devils and raising the dead; well apparently, you're not. Because the disciples operated in these prior to Pentecost, and the difference is that at Pentecost, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues. That's the difference.

Paul expressly tells us to desire to operate in the best gifts in **1 Corinthians 12:31**; *"But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way."* Every gift has a vital purpose; therefore, the best gifts would be the one that the Holy Spirit chooses to manifest thru you at that given time. That's the best because the Holy Spirit knows what's needed in every circumstance and situation. You can't really say one gift is better than another because they're all the best.

In the following chapter, **1 Corinthians 13:13**, Paul refers to greatest gift where it says; *"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."* Backing up, in **verse 8** it says; *"Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away."*

We know that until we're all in heaven with the Father, the gifts of the Holy Spirit will continue to manifest through us and when he comes and we're with him, then it will all be done away with because it will no longer be needed. We see though in this scripture that even though you could be operating in these wonderful gifts, if you're not operating in love, it's a bunch of noise and clanging cymbals. The love walk has to be in these gifts when you move in them.

Living a holy life is a responsibility of those who manifest the gifts, because of the spiritual warfare from Satan as a result of operating in them will want to disqualify you by you living an unholy life. If you live holy, it will help you and be a defense from the spiritual warfare.

Judas Iscariot is a good example of a disciple who operated in the power gifts, and yet in the end was possessed by Satan, turned against Jesus and took his own life. Operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit is going to require you to live in surrender and consecration of yourself to God, leaving no door open for the Satan to come in and rob, kill and destroy the ministry gifts in you.

All the more reason to be filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, because you know if you pray in the Holy Spirit, you never pray amiss because the Holy Spirit always knows how to pray in every situation. That's the 'one-up' so to speak that you have over those who don't pray in tongues. That's not being proud, but it's to say that your tongues are not praying amiss but according to God's will, all the time.

Remember, all of the disciples operated in the power gifts **prior** to Pentecost, yet when Jesus was betrayed and crucified, they all fled and denied him for fear of persecution, except John. Yet, after Pentecost, they not only lived for him but died and were martyred for him except the disciple John who died of natural causes. There was a difference in them when they received power with the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking tongues. It enabled them to withstand the satanic opposition and persecution. That opposition has not

## HOLY SPIRIT POWER

---

changed today. You need the baptism of the Holy Spirit to overcome the devil in Jesus' name. It has nothing to do with our own righteousness, good works or knowledge of the Bible, it's the Holy Spirit's work through you, his vessel.

Paul says in **1 Timothy 5:22**; *“Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.”* The baptism of Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, is available to all men, but gifts of the ministry are of the Holy Spirit's choosing only.

Ministry gifts are imparted thru the laying on of hands as it says in **Romans 1:11**; *“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—”* It also says in **2 Timothy 1:5-6**; *“when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”*

We see the gifts are imparted through the laying on of hands and then also the Apostle Paul tells Timothy that they're imparted through prophecy in **1 Timothy 4:14**; *“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.”*

This is all after Pentecost. So, in order to see the gifts operate in your life, there is procedure to follow; you need to be baptized or filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. It was #1 for the disciples and Jesus' last command for them and it has not change in over 2000 years. You're a vessel, your personal willingness needs to open up for him to impart to you what you need. These gifts are without repentance, they're given to you when you're born again and as we read last week in the parable of the talents, it's what you do with them that Jesus is looking at and will bring you into an account for on judgement day. What did you do with the gifts he has given to you?

Are you a willing vessel today, yielded to and desiring to use the gifts the Holy Spirit has given you?

We read a short script that I'd encourage you to read. Please click on this link to read. It's from BobSnook.org and it's entitled, '[Pentecost](#)'.