

HOLY SPIRIT POWER

June 3rd, 2018 - Holy Spirit Power

Part 8

In our continual teaching on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Paul, speaking to the church at Rome says this in **Romans 11:29**; “*For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.*” Irrevocable means binding, irreversible, final, unalterable, permanent, immutable and conclusive. So that’s how God sees the gifts that he’s given to you. Regardless of how your spiritual walk is; that gift is still yours for a season until the Lord deals with you and if there isn’t repentance of sin, he’ll then deal with you. But he has patience and is long-suffering towards you. We’ll look at this closely today.

Again, let’s look at what Matthew Henry’s Commentary on this scripture. He says this; “...*by this truth: For the gifts and callings of God are without repentance. Repentance is sometimes taken for a change of mind, and so God never repents, for he is in one mind and who can turn him? Sometimes for a change of way, and that is here understood, intimating the constancy and unchangeableness of that love of God which is founded in election. Those gifts and callings are immutable; whom he so loves, he loves to the end. We find God repenting that he had given man a being (Gen. 6:6; It repented the Lord that he had made man), and repenting that he had given a man honour and power (1 Sam. 15:11; It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king); but we never find God repenting that he had given a man grace, or effectually called him; those gifts and callings are without repentance.*”

God gives you a gift or gifts that you’re to be a steward of. Some Old Testament examples of men who operated in the gifts of the Spirit were King Saul, who God ultimately left because of his disobedience. We read about King Saul being among the prophets in **1 Samuel 10:6-10**; “*Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. And let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you. You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and surely I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and make sacrifices of peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do.*” So it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day. When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.”

What was prophesied by the prophet came to pass in Saul – he was gifted to prophesy. But during the course of his reign, King Saul allowed evil spirits to enter his life and God’s hand lifted from him. We read in **1 Samuel 16:14-16**; “*But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him. And Saul’s servants said to him, “Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well.*”

Vs.23 continues saying; “*And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.*”

The spiritual decline of King Saul becomes more evident when we see he is possessed by a murderous demon that leads him to attempt to murder David, whom God had anointed to be the new King. It says in **1 Samuel 18:10-12**; “*And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul’s hand. And Saul cast the spear, for he said, “I will pin David to the wall!” But David escaped his presence twice. Now Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, but had departed from Saul.*”

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How ironic that you see Saul prophesying one minute and the next he's throwing a spear at David to kill him! How is that spiritual gift of prophecy still operating? Didn't God leave him? It shows that the gift, which is irrevocable, was still in operation even though he was in sin.

Still after this, it says in **1 Samuel 19:23-24**; *“So he went there to Naioth in Ramah. Then the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on and prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah. And he also stripped off his clothes and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Therefore they say, “Is Saul also among the prophets?”* This was after he tried to kill David! You wonder how it's possible that he can continue to prophesy, but the spiritual gift is still in operation.

You can see how that what was a move of God, turned into a work of the flesh, as King Saul stripped down naked, all day and night, under the influence of an evil spirit, giving the appearance humbling himself, causing those around him to say, *“Is Saul also among the prophets?”* The devil perverted this spiritual event that was happening. This is a good example of the gifts and callings being without repentance in the life of King Saul. Towards the end of Saul's reign, his gifts were no longer manifesting and God answered him no more, which led him to pursue seeking out the witch of Endor for guidance.

We read this in **1 Samuel 28:6-7**; *“And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets. Then Saul said to his servants, “Find me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her.” And his servants said to him, “In fact, there is a woman who is a medium at Endor.”*

Other Old Testament examples of the gifts and callings given without repentance are found in the Judge Samson who ignores the vows of separation as a Nazarite, and the prophet Balaam who is known as the hireling prophet because of his love of money.

In the New Testament we have Judas Iscariot where we read in **Matthew 10:1-8**; *“And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. 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.”*

Judas was commissioned and sent out like the other 11 disciples. He healed the sick, cleansed the lepers, cast out demons etc., he received the same gifts freely as the rest. Look at **Luke 10:17-20** where it says; *“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. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”*

Judas was among those who returned having operated in the power gifts. Again, as we said in earlier messages, this was before the baptism in the Holy Spirit. These power gifts were in operation in the disciples.

At the last supper though, Jesus says this in **Matthew 26:22**; *“And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, “Lord, is it I?” Judas has the audacity to say this in vs. 25; “Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, “Rabbi, is it I?” He said to him, “You have said it.”* Right then, the evil

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spirit entered him and he proceeds with his premeditated plan of turning Jesus over to the religious leaders for money.

In **Acts 1:17** we read this about Judas also; *“for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry.”* He was also the treasurer of Jesus ministry as we read in **John 12:4-6**; *“But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, who would betray Him, said, “Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.”*

For anyone to say that Judas didn’t operate in the gifts or hold a prominent position, would be untrue. A mans ministry is to be judged by fruit, not by gifts, because it’s obvious that the gifts are given without repentance. You wouldn’t have been able to judge Judas according to the gifts could you, as those gifts were clearly operational as in the rest. But Jesus knew what was in his heart. He knew the fruit of his heart.

Jesus says this in **Matthew 7:15-17**; *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.”*

The gifts of the Spirit are to prepare the Church for the second coming of Christ, which by the way can happen any time now. The Apostle Paul says in **1 Corinthians 1:4-9**; *“I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

The gifts of the Spirit are given to equip the church on the earth. But are we only to validate Christians upon their spiritual gifts? No, we’re to examine the fruit of their lives. We’re to be fruit inspectors. **1 Corinthians 13:1-3** says; *“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”*

Paul taught that the gifts of the Spirit need to operate in **love at all times**. In the Old Testament, the office if Prophet was #1, however in the New Testament it falls into #2 position below the office of Apostle, but if it is not operated in love it is likened to an irritating noise that profits nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 says; *“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”*

There are **9** gifts of the Spirit and **9** ingredients in divine love.

1. Patience – *“Love suffers long”*
2. Kindness – *“and is kind”*
3. Generosity – *“love does not envy”*
4. Humility – *“is not puffed up; love does not parade itself”*
5. Courtesy – *“does not behave rudely”*
6. Unselfishness – *“does not seek its own”*
7. Good temper – *“is not provoked”*

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8. Thinks no evil – *“thinks no evil”*
9. Rejoices not in iniquity – *“does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth”*

So the next time you see yourself or someone operating in any one of the revelation, power, and inspiration gifts as laid out in 1 Corinthians 12, it's very important to examine whether you or they are operating out of love and that the fruits of the Spirit are in operation when manifesting the gifts.

1 Corinthians 13: 1-7 again says; *“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”*

So, when you look at the 9 gifts of the Spirit and see them in operation in yourself, the church, on TV, in your favorite preacher etc., do a check list;

1. Word of wisdom – are you/they operating in love with all it's ingredients that we just mentioned?
2. Word of knowledge - are you/they operating in love with all it's ingredients that we just mentioned?
3. Discerning of spirits - are you/they operating in love with all it's ingredients that we just mentioned?
4. Gift of faith - are you/they operating in love with all it's ingredients that we just mentioned?
5. Gifts of healing - are you/they operating in love with all it's ingredients that we just mentioned?
6. Working of miracles - are you/they operating in love with all it's ingredients that we just mentioned?
7. Gift of prophecy - are you/they operating in love with all it's ingredients that we just mentioned?
8. Gift of diverse kinds of tongues - are you/they operating in love with all it's ingredients that we just mentioned?
9. Gift of interpretation of tongues - are you/they operating in love with all it's ingredients that we just mentioned?

We have to keep in mind these great men of God in the Old and New Testaments that we read about today, and there are more, didn't have the ingredients of love in operation. Samson had great God given power given to him yet fell short in so many ways; Saul allowed a murderous spirit to fill him; Balaam was a lover of money and prophesied for money; Judas Iscariot operated in the power gifts yet was a lover of money and it led him to betray his master.

When you're prophesying great things – how's your love walk; when you're speaking tongues with interpretation of them and it's all coming to pass – is the love walk there? There is greater power in the love walk than the gifts as the Apostle Paul says. No matter how great the demonstration of the gifts are – if the love walk isn't there, it's worth absolutely nothing and could end up on a road of destruction depending on how far you walk in it, just like Judas Iscariot, King Saul, Balaam, Samson and others. I'd venture to say that there are ministers who have their spiritual eyes taken out because of sin, and like Samson are on a treadmill going around and around, who are not able to see and hear from the Lord any more..

How's the love walk today in your life? You want the gifts of the Spirit in operation in your life – but also desire that the love walk accompanies them. Work on the love walk with all of your giftings. Use the little check list and allow the Holy Spirit to teach you and show you where you need to grow in love. In whatever gift/s you have, check to see what the real motivating factor is in you doing it. Is it the love that's talked about

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in I Corinthians 13? The gifts may be in operation – but is the gift of love in operation too? Don't let the gifts of the Spirit that are operating in your life, be a gong show – sounding brass or clanging cymbals.

Here is a short script by Bob Snook – on the topic of [Patience](#) that we read today.