

## HOLY SPIRIT POWER

October 14th, 2018 - Holy Spirit Power

Part 20 – Sluggard or Bondslave of Jesus

What came first? The power gifts which are the nine Gifts of the Spirit that we've been studying or the five-fold ministry gifts (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers)?

Let's read **Acts 1:4-8** where Jesus talks about the coming promise of the Holy Spirit. It says; *"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 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."*

As the disciples were obedient to wait for this precious promise as Jesus had commanded them to do, the Jewish Feast of Pentecost (also known as the Feast of Weeks) was time to be celebrated and this is when God sends his Holy Spirit. We read in **Acts 2:1-4**; *"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."*

At this time, the disciples are still hiding from their enemies who were the religious leaders which had accused them of stealing Jesus' body and also who didn't believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. After this mighty demonstration of power where they are all speaking in unknown languages, Peter addresses the crowds and at this time, the early church begins. There was no church up until then, it was Jesus with his disciples. I pose another question, which came first; the baptism in the Holy Spirit or the church? Remember from our previous messages that the disciples were already operating in signs, wonders and miracles with Jesus. Obviously, they needed to wait for the promise of the Father which was his Holy Spirit to come upon them, fill them and empower them.

We read in **Acts 2:40-47** where Peter says this; *"And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."*

It's obvious that the power gift of speaking in tongues came first and was followed by the supernatural interpretation of the tongues by each tribe and race that was gathered in Jerusalem who witnessed the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. They clearly understood what the disciples spoke in tongues. It was a specific message from the Lord for each of them.

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The disciples of Jesus were commissioned to operate in some of the power gifts prior to Pentecost; to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons, but they never received this power and tongues until they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

We read about his commission to them in **Matthew 10:5-8** where Jesus says this; *“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.”*

After Pentecost the Gifts of the Spirit are operating **in** the church as a **vital part** of the Body of Christ. We’ve been studying these gifts from [1 Corinthians 12:1-11](#), which are the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healings, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, different kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues.

**1 Corinthians 12:12-31** shows the comparison and necessity of these gifts like the physical parts of our body, every part or gift is needed and not one is greater than another. These gifts are for the edification of the Body of Christ, the church. It says; *“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”*

If God has given you a gift then, let me ask you; which one of the nine Gifts of the Spirit do you operate in in your Church? Yes, these gifts can be in operation outside the church but according to what we just read, they’re primarily for the edification of the church.

### Revelation Gifts

1. Word of wisdom
2. Word of knowledge
3. Discerning of spirits

### Power Gifts

1. Faith
2. Gifts of healing
3. Working of miracles

### Inspiration Gifts

1. Prophecy
2. Diverse kinds of tongues
3. Interpretation of tongues

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**I Corinthians 12:27-31** continues saying; *“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.”*

It's safe to say that you'll not operate in one or more of these nine gifts of the Spirit unless you're in a local church. Most churches today consist of apostles, teachers, administrations and helps but have left out of the Church Body the operation of miracles, gifts of healings, speaking in tongues and interpretation, and the whole council regarding the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit that are available to each and every member of the Church as the Holy Spirit gives.

If the latter gifts are left out of the Church, you have excellency of speech, controlled and limited teaching of the Bible with a well-organized administration and ministry of helps department, but no demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit. It will be a building with a motivational speaker; a lot of eloquence, teaching, administrations who know how to raise money for charity etc., but void of the Holy Spirit's power because the Gifts are not in operation.

So long as the power of the Gifts of the Spirit are not allowed to operate in the Church, then the apostles, pastors, teachers, administrators and helps department are in power. Sound familiar? Why do you think churches like these fight tooth and nail to keep the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the baptism in the Holy Spirit out? Because then they'd need to give up their power and rest in the power of the Holy Spirit seeing the gifts operate through everyone.

Apostles by the way, are sent out ones, they travel from place to place building new churches, pioneers just like the Apostle Paul and other early Apostles. They're not in the same church overseeing a huge organization for years on end. I think personally there's been a misuse of that title in North America. Here's a good example of Apostolic Holy Ghost Power in **Matthew 10:1**; *“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.”*

In **Acts 5:12-13** we continue reading about the power of the Holy Spirit in the church; *“And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly.”*

**Acts 6:7-9** says; *“Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.”*

**Romans 15:18-19** says; *“For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient— in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.”*

**1 Corinthians 2:4-5** says; *“And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”*

**1 Thessalonians 1:4-5** says; *“knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.”*

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So let me ask you again, which one of the nine Gifts of the Spirit do you operate in in your Church? You need to be operating in at least one but not limited to one. Have you wanted to give a word in tongues or interpret tongues in your church? Have you felt that if you could just lay hands on a certain sick person you know that they'd be healed? Or the Lord has given you divine knowledge about a certain situation but you didn't speak it out? The list goes on. Don't grieve the Holy Spirit and quench him. The Lord is very serious about how the Holy Spirit has been quenched and kicked out of his body and replaced with a well-oiled organization with great administration, ministry of helps, teachers, great building and missions programs. But when it comes to the power of the Holy Spirit, he has not been allowed to move or at the best, very controlled.

The manifestation of your Gift is given for the profit of all, but how can they profit from it if you bury it and don't serve the Lord in the Church with it? When you say that you don't want to serve the Lord with your gift or refuse to operate in it when you know you have it or them, it's like the slothful servant who buried his talent.

Note what Mathew Henry's Commentary says on the person who buried his talent in the Parable of the Talents.

*“(2.) The bad account of the slothful servant. Observe,*

*[1.] His apology for himself, Matt. 25:24, 25. Though he had received but one talent, for that one he is called to account. The smallness of our receiving will not excuse us from a reckoning. None shall be called to an account for more than they have received; but for what we have, we must all account.*

*Observe, First, What he confides in. He comes to the account with a deal of assurance, relying on the plea he had to put in, that he was able to say, “Lo, there thou hast that is thine; if I have not made it more, as the others have done, yet this I can say, I have not made it less.” This, he thinks, may serve to bring him off, if not with praise, yet with safety.*

*Note, Many a one goes very securely to judgment, presuming upon the validity of a plea that will be overruled as vain and frivolous. Slothful professors, that are afraid of doing too much for God, yet hope to come off as well as those that take so much pains in religion. Thus the sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason, Prov. 26:16. This servant thought that his account would pass well enough, because he could say, There thou hast that is thine. “Lord, I was no spendthrift of my estate, no prodigal of my time, no profaner of my sabbaths, no opposer of good ministers and good preaching; Lord, I never ridiculed my bible, nor set my wits to work to banter religion, nor abused my power to persecute any good man; I never drowned my parts, nor wasted God's good creatures in drunkenness and gluttony, nor ever to my knowledge did I injury to any body.” Many that are called Christians, build great hopes for heaven upon their being able to make such an account; yet all this amounts to no more than there thou hast that is thine; as if no more were required, or could be expected.”*

So how are you serving the Lord in the Church with one of the nine Gifts of the Spirit, or has your service in the church been replaced with excellency of speech, controlled and limited teaching of the Bible with a well-organized administration and ministry of helps department, but no demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit? It may sound repetitive, but it needs repetition.

When you became a Christian, you became servant or slave born into God's house, paid for by the blood of Jesus on the cross. In Hebrew the word for servant is slave and is used 250 times in the Old Testament and 40 times in the New Testament. You're no longer your own – you're a slave to Christ Jesus. Even Mary, Jesus' mother referred to herself as a bond-slave.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** says; “*Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*”

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**Galatians 2:20** says; *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”*

**Philippians 2:5-8** says; *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a **bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”*

We live in a society with a privileged mind-set. No one likes to hear the word or be called a slave or servant. According to the Bible, as a Christian, you’ve laid down your rights and your will and you learn to say yes to Jesus as your master who you now serve. Whatever he asks of you, you say ‘yes Lord’. You are a bond-slave to Christ. Your life is no longer yours. Let’s look at the disciples/apostles who were our forerunners in the faith say about themselves.

**James 1:1**; *“James, a **bondservant** of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.”*

**2 Peter 1:1**; *“Simon Peter, a **bondservant** and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:”*

**Jude 1**; *“Jude, a **bondservant** of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:”*

**Revelation 1:1**; *“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His **bond-servants**, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His **bond-servant** John,”*

Our life isn’t our own either and if these disciples understood that, so should we. We go, do, speak and live as the Lord tells us. Any natural servant or slave would never backtalk to his master. Neither can we act like that to Jesus Christ. By not wanting to use the Gifts the Holy Spirit has given to his church, we’re no better than the unfaithful servant who buried his talent. If we have the mentality of a slave we’ll say yes Lord, anything you want, what’s next. Because of the privileged mindset and our rights in our society, we don’t even understand how we must serve our Saviour.

Do you have the heart of bondservant of Christ in your Church? You’re not a slave or bondservant to the pastor or teacher or man. Are you serving the Lord with your Gifts that he’s given to you for the edification of the Church Body or have you buried it like the sluggard only giving what belongs to him, a religious life that is void of the power of the Holy Spirit?

Please click on the link to read this script from Bob Snook entitled “[Movement](#)”.