

SPIRITUAL

GIFTS

WHAT, WHY AND HOW

George Akalonu

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	6
1. Basic Failings.....	14
2. Understating the Seal of Measure.....	25
3. Three Dimensions of Holy Spirit.....	34
4. The Enabling Gifts	43
5. Identifying other Spiritual Gifts.....	53
6. Principles Governing the Operation of Gifts.....	64
7. Ways to Discover Spiritual Gifts	71
8. Opposition against the work of Holy Spirit	81
9. Sixteen Principles for Utilization of Spiritual Gifts.....	89
10. Epilogue of Spiritual Gifts.....	99

INTRODUCTION

In order to fully understand the Royal Priesthood after the order of

Melchizedek, we must reflect on a foundational truth: Holy Spirit needs and uses human vessels to fulfill the Divine Purpose in the earth realm. He demonstrated this principle in the earthly life of the High Priest of the Order, Yahshua, Jesus Himself. It was Holy Spirit Who planted Him in the womb of Mary according to Luke 1:35. Yahshua did no miracle until Holy Spirit came upon Him bodily at the baptism of John in Matthew 3:16 and John 3:34. It was Holy Spirit Who led Him into the wilderness and strengthened Him for the epic encounter with Satan as written in Matthew 4:1. Yahshua went in the strength of The Spirit to do all the good deeds recorded in the gospels written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. Acts 10:38

Interestingly, none of those authors of the gospel accounts could write anything of enduring value except the fact that Holy Spirit inspired them to capture essential aspects of the life and ministry of Yahshua, Jesus.

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. 2 Peter 1:16-21

In His teaching ministry, Yahshua shared with the disciples extensive details of Who the Holy Spirit Is; His assignments in exalting Him and clarifying the essence and context of the truths He shared with them. Before He ascended to heaven, Yahshua forbade His disciples from going forth with zeal to preach. He rather charged them to wait for Holy Spirit to

indwell them. The idea was for Holy Spirit to use them as well as all saints as vessels for manifesting Him (Yahshua, Jesus) in all the realms of dominion or Domain assigned to them.

And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence 6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:4-8

The Divine Principle is for Holy Spirit to use the vessels of saints as instruments to say and do what Yahshua would have said and done, if He were physically present. Since Yahshua was glorified, sitting at the right hand of the Father, Yahweh on the Throne of Grace, those who are called to His Melchizedek order of Priesthood are not left on earth to proclaim and demonstrate the Gospel on their own strength. Rather, each is to receive a measure of the unsurpassable power of Holy Spirit as primary means of their identification as part of Yahshua as well as instruments to release a measure of His power to impact fellow saints, other humans and nature.

It is in this context of His exaltation in the heaven lies and the reality that saints are His personal representatives or Ambassadors imbued with the same Holy Spirit Who manifested through His Own vessel that He gave the awesome promise which few saints are laying hold of due to the limitations imposed by religiosity and false humility:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. John 14:12

It is not only religiosity that is the limitation, the truth is that to walk in this authority, the basic starting point is to emulate Him and die to self so that Holy Spirit can use the surrendered vessel to do whatever Yahshua would have done.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. John 12:24

The Omega Church with which Yahshua, Jesus will close out the human age will recapture the essence of true Kingdom life and ministry across the earth realm. As the leaven of Babylon and its organizational structures are identified and torn down, the organic Body of Yahshua, Jesus which operates as a living, loving organism of mutually dependent and empowering cells or body parts will arise to manifest its Head again. In a subsequent chapter, we will undertake in depth study of Who Holy Spirit Is and the vast spectrum of His assignment on earth. For now, we will examine over a period of time the issue of Spiritual Gifts. Because of its origin (Holy Spirit) and essence (to make saints functional parts of the organism which is the Body of Yahshua, Jesus in the earth realm), it is needful to do a systematic study of Spiritual Gifts which essentially constitute the fulcrum of all other factors which make up the unique spiritual DNA of all saints.

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES

There are a number of passages in the Holy Scriptures which clearly spell out what spiritual gifts are and their range. The Holy Spirit spoke used Paul the Apostle to lay out the subject in great detail in a number of passages. These include the epistle to the Romans chapter 12: 1- 8. In all of 1 Corinthians chapter 12, Paul explained what the gifts are and how they complement to manifest an organic Body. In 1 Corinthians chapter 13, Paul was used to warn the Church that spiritual gifts amount to nothing when they are not exercised in love. In 1 Corinthians chapter 14, Paul was used by Holy Spirit to give clear instructions on how the gifts should be used to edify other saints and not breed disorder based on projection of self. Further clarity on the subject matter is found in Ephesians 4: 1 – 16 which centers on the need for unity is enhanced when saints discover their individual gifts and use them to build up others as they are empowered by leaders operating in the fivefold office gifts so that the Body is empowered by what every joint supplies. Holy Spirit also spoke through the Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 4: 8, 9, 10, 11 to charge all saints not to be apologetic about discovering and utilizing their spiritual gifts for enhancement of the Body.

This book will seek to present a systematic exposition of the plan of Yahshua, Jesus for His Church to operate as a supernatural entity of functional body parts which sustain each other and the whole in a matrix of spiritual gifts. The course will thus debunk the popular concept of the church as an organization with a pyramidal structure under human Chief Executives which is the prevalent practice of the Laodicean church. In manifesting the spirit of Laodicea which Yahshua warned against in Revelation 3:14-21, we see clearly how the ways of Babylon have infiltrated the organized religious Church in this generation.

**QUESTIONS WHICH WILL BE ANSWERED IN THE COURSE OF THIS
TEACHING ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

- What is a spiritual gift?
- How many spiritual gifts are specifically mentioned in the Bible?
- What spiritual gifts are implied and in what context in the bible?
- How are spiritual gifts to be utilized?
- What are the ways to discover our spiritual gifts?
- What do spiritual gifts say of the ministry the Lord call us to. In other words, what is the co-relation between spiritual gifts and ministry?
- What are the dangers of operating outside our spiritual gifts?
- Is the presence and exercise of spiritual gifts sufficient basis for success in ministry? If not, what are the essentials needful to fulfill ministry?

THE NEED TO RESTORE SCRIPTURE OVER HUMANISM

One of the biggest challenges that the Kingdom church must confront frontally is the way some brethren allow their thoughts, ideas and expectations to override clear provisions of scripture. One area where this humanistic mindset is evidently used to great harm is the subject of the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church today.

Two broad groups have emerged when the present day ministry of the Holy Spirit crops up. One is the group who insist that the Holy Spirit and His gifts are not for today, having gone out of fashion with the establishment of the Church on the day of Pentecost. Some major denominations have built their whole dogma and theology on this fallacy. The second group has

a diverse range of saints who believe that the same Holy Spirit who invaded the earth on the day of Pentecost is still relevant to the day to day life of saints. However, this seems to be the only point of agreement. From this common ground, a cacophony of voices spring up, ranging from the sublime to the absurd.

There was this postulation from one of the leaders of the “Apostolic Reformation” that defined speaking in tongue as the capacity to speak many different languages or the art of linguistics. Sadly, no one corrected him since he was the Pope of his movement. Such distortions have been fueled by the inability of most “Pentecostals” and “Charismatic” to see that it is impossible to serve Elohim ACCEPTABLY WHEN THE REALM OF THE SELF IS ACTIVELY ALIVE. When the self-life is alive and well, what ensures worship propelled from the soul realm, mind, will, emotion, rather than from the heart or spirit-man.

Yahshua, Jesus Himself taught, during His epic encounter with the Samaritan woman, that true worship must be premised on two wings – In Spirit and in Truth. It is our responsibility to stop worshipping Elohim with the corrupt facility of the soul (our realm of self being where the mind, will and emotions hold sway). To achieve this glorious state of true spirituality, saints are called to firstly deny themselves, take up their own cross and follow Yahshua, Jesus to Calvary where we will be crucified with Him (See Matthew 16:24 – 26; Galatians 2:20.) When our self-life has been crucified, we can no longer seek to pursue reputation, fame, wealth or humanistic empires through religious corporations masquerading as churches.

Crucified saints are dead to themselves; dead to personal ambitions and opinions; dead to desire to be seen and known and dead to their personal ideologies. Such people are made alive by the Holy Spirit who possesses them fully and determines all that they say and do. Because He is the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit leads such saints into a full understanding of the plan of Elohim for the Church of Yahshua, Jesus. It is that glorious plan which Satan successfully befuddled after the early years of the Alpha Church which gave room to the Ephesians concept of lack of intimacy and preoccupation with dead religious works.

The end time reformation of the Church will begin with restoration of the Lordship of Yahshua, Jesus. For the Church to operate the way He intended there will be a restoration of the foundational synergistic ministries of the fivefold – Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers. These leadership offices and gifts that Yahshua, Jesus bequeaths to His Church cannot function according to the whims and caprices of men. That is why restoration of the sanctity and authority of the Holy Scriptures as sure foundation of the lives of saints is not negotiable. True Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers will not and cannot teach people from fleshly minds. They will be faithful to the letters and spirit of the Word of Elohim, believing that in them alone, with the illumination of the Holy Spirit, is the very tonic that is sorely needed to bring revival to the Church in our generation.

The unarguable truth is that there can be no genuine revival outside of the Word as its base. Lakeland is a sure proof of this assertion. Whenever the children of Elohim first repair the altar of the centrality of the word, the true and lasting fire of revival will ignite again in the saints a passion for holiness; agape love, unity and a going forth to fulfil the Great Commission. The congregation that Elohim will use to bring this to pass in any city or region shall not be measured in terms of size, budget, gender, age, education and eloquence. What will mark out the congregation rather is a rediscovery of the true concept of Church. This true concept is what Apostle Cosmas Ilechukwu, Chair of Global Governing Council of International Ministers Fellowship, aptly called *“The Church of His Vision”*, the title of his ground breaking book.

In order for the Church to function as a congregation of the called out of the Lord in each community, the Lord has endowed a number of supernatural abilities known as spiritual gifts and spiritual offices. It is interesting to see that in many so called living churches, spiritual offices have been jettisoned in favor of carnal titles. This, in itself, is largely based on the transmutation of the simple concept of the Church from what Yahshua, Jesus had in mind to what men deem convenient, even the humanistic behemoths called denominations.

Because denominations are not part of the plan of Yahshua, Jesus for His Church, they have largely done more harm than good. Denominations have been misled by the enemy to subtly and even overtly divide the church;

instigated strife and competition and decimated the strength of the Kingdom. In order to sustain their humanistic agenda, denominations first have to discard simple scriptural models in favor of complex religious systems which create an aura of divinity. In other words, Church Offices and titles are created outside of what is in the Holy Writ to minister to human ego.

CHAPTER 1

BASIC FAILINGS THAT MARRIED THE BEAUTY OF THE CHURCH

In beginning the review on the basic errors that tarnished the beauty of the Church, it must be noted that Christian Religion is based on a tiny Professional Clergy versus a large dormant Laity. In the organizational paradigm which afflicts the Church like Cancer, the work of the ministry is undertaken by a tiny professional clergy operating in the stifling system patterned after the Order of Levitical. In most independently “founded” and run ministries, the tendency is towards the subduing pattern of Nimrod. In other types, there is a mixture of both orders of priesthood.

The vast majority of Christians in either of such ministries – the laity – are then invited, persuaded or coerced to come to receive ministry and ablutions from the professional priests inside buildings with special architecture and decoration where they have a sensing of the “holy” for a few hours each week. In such older denominations, ministry was a career, pursued by a professional clergy which was taught, amongst other things, how to preach “effective” sermons aimed at those religious consumers who were like spectators in sporting arenas. Talk of a golden calf indeed. In other words, Christians become “Church Goers” and “consumers” of the anointing on their priests. The outcome is that supposed saints of Yahshua, His very Body in the earth realm, can by this strange system continue to live in sin all through the week and when they come to “church,” they act differently.

The spectacle of couples who could quarrel while driving right to the car park only to put up an appearance of “all-is-well” for the period of “service,” only to go back to their vomit in the drive back home or at home became the face of hypocrisy. Worse still, when the saints gather, people are organized to do things according to their gender, physical endowments, age, socio-economic status and other humanistic qualities. One denomination hit a brilliant idea when it awarded pastorates to all brethren in good jobs who were in contact with many people such as Bankers, Social workers and Teachers. Such brethren did not need to be called or gifted as

Pastors by the Yahshua, Head of the Church. All they needed was the name of their denomination to attract seekers. Such brethren who were neither called to be pastors nor gifted for this were given crash training to simply replicate denominational models where Christian religion seems successful on the outward. These are some of the things that disfigured the nominal, organized part of the Church of Yahshua, Jesus in the eyes of the world. A mere cosmetic makeover of the situation will not do. The axe is laid at the root of the rotten tree. It is the axe of the Lord which is swinging to cut down all the religious/organizational systems injected between the third and fifth centuries starting with the union of Church and State in Rome so that the true Church of Yahshua, Jesus will be raised as a radiant colossus which is able to engage and defeat the powers of darkness that are massed against it. Ephesians 5: 25 – 27; Ephesians 3:10; Ephesians 6:10-18. The Church based on revelation of His Divinity is the one He is building as He affirmed after Peter confessed Him.

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.¹⁹ And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Matthew 16:18-19

A.2. THE DECEPTION AND FALLING AWAY

In the gospel, Yahshua, Jesus referred to Satan as the father of lies. Lying against Elohim has been his key strategy in dealing with man. At Eden, Satan switched on his deception to its highest level and successfully got Adam and Eve to doubt Elohim and believe his lies. The rest is history: the Kingdom was lost and darkness set in. Satan did not stop there.

There have been various attempts by Satan to make the gospel of no effect. When he fights from outside, Satan's strategies are easily known. Knowing the truism that most human beings have a 'God consciousness' deep within their hearts, Satan's chief strategy has been to invent a slew of religious ideas that sound very sweet to human ears. Instead of fighting frontally through atheistic models, the battle ground is routinely shifted to target the minds of those who believe in Yahshua, Jesus.

Most spiritual historians tend to focus only on issue of the marriage of majority of Christians who were worn out by intense persecution at the hands of the Roman Empire. Refusing to suffer further for the sake of Yahshua, they embraced the union of ‘Church’ and State. In so doing, they departed from true spiritual relationship with Yahweh and embraced a religious system which outwardly looked like what Yahshua, Jesus came to inaugurate. The outer shell of the faith was kept in the form of rituals and activities inside “Church” buildings but in which active personal relationship with Elohim based on the new birth experience was lost. Outside of being born again and enjoying intimacy with Elohim, the vast majority depended on the words of fellow humans, functioning as Priests, to assure to be content with physical acts of penance followed by participate in religious rituals and activities.

A.3. NOT JUST ROME BUT ALSO PROTESTANTISM

The reality is that the falling away from the true simple relational gospel was not confined to the Roman Church model only. In every millennium and in every generation, the enemy invents a fresh set of lies designed to cause citizens of the Kingdom to step away from Elohim and His word in favor of humanistic notions. As we saw in the course on Priesthood and the Kingdom Church, the Protestant Reformation did not totally reject the leaven of Babylon but retained some which have been passed down to its off springs till today, manifesting in the way Pentecostal, Charismatic and Evangelical movements have systematically negated the priesthood of all saints in their practices. Beyond the mainstream of Protestantism, the vast numbers of cults that litter the Church attest to this reality. Each of the cults has some unique features. However, they all touch base in their departure from a number of vital truths about Yahshua, His Word and what He requires from those who belong to Him, called out of the world system.

The greater majority of the Mega Church movement is based on the gathering of multitudes together to ‘worship’ in a location or locations but end up essentially in making spirit-filled saints ‘consumers of the anointing’ on great preachers. There is not much empowerment to make such people step into the fullness of their divine identities or walk in their callings. Rather, they are recruited as it were to build great religious corporations and organizations based on the ABC. The result is that though people speak in tongues and are seemingly “active.” they end up as tools of

building denominations around persons rather than having primary loyalty to Yahshua, Jesus and participating in His Kingdom purpose.

A.4. PSEUDO-KINGDOM MOVEMENT: RELIGION OF THE ANTI-CHRIST

In these last days, the clearest arrow head of the departure from the faith is the Pseudo Kingdom movement. This movement has various facets but some fundamental issues unite them, when the mask is taken off. The core issue that drives most facets of this religion of the anti-Christ which masquerades as Kingdom teaching is simply a determined rejection of the divinity of Yahshua, Jesus. This is followed by exaltation of humans beyond what the Word says. The second feature is rejection of the truth that He will return bodily on a day and time no one knows to set up and rule in the full dimension of the Kingdom of Elohim here on planet earth.

It is essential to state, in no uncertain terms that Yahshua is the central revelation of the whole Scriptures. He is the center and circumference of the Kingdom of Elohim to which the redeemed are invited to be partakers through His propitiatory death on the Cross. That was and remains the only avenue through which the Kingdom lost by Adam was recovered. Those who teach that Yahshua was a mere man much like a Prime Minister appointed by Yahweh; those who strenuously refuse to accept the witness of the Holy Scripture that He is Emmanuel or Elohim made flesh have clearly identified themselves as purveyors of another religion. Let us see what a few critical scriptures say about the anti-Christ doctrines held by many wings of the pseudo-kingdom movement:

Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. 1 Corinthians 12: 3

Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.²⁰ But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.²¹ I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is a

liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.²³ Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. 1 John 2: 18-23

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.² Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:³ And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. 1 John 4:1-3

Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. ⁵ Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?⁶ This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.⁷ For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. ⁸ And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.⁹ If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.¹⁰ He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.¹¹ And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.¹² He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.¹³ These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. 1 John 5:4-13

For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.⁸ Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.⁹ Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.¹⁰ If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: ¹¹ For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds. 2 John 1: 7 -11

Let it be said that in most cases, the pseudo-kingdom movement has often admirable insight into the errors of Christian religion and wonderful concepts of how saints can exercise dominion on earth. Unfortunately, they mix up the issue of when the Kingdom will fully manifest. Because they do not believe in the Divinity of Yahshua and do not understand that His return is when the Kingdom will be fully manifested in the earth realm, they attribute to the present time all the promises of the future. Not a few saints have been caught up in these errors and died in the quest to “establish the kingdom on earth.”

Because they do not believe in the Divinity of Yahshua, most of the pseudo-kingdom movement have clutched at the erroneous exaltation of Holy Spirit, trying to project Him as Governor of the earth realm. In this again, there is a grand error. Holy Spirit is given to exalt Yahshua just as Yahshua exalted the Father when on earth.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. John 16:13

It is saints empowered by Holy Spirit who functioning as Ambassadors of Yahshua that are governors of the various realms of the Kingdom assigned to them as domains to exercise authority over on this side of eternity. It is also such saints who in fulfilment of their Melchizedeck orders will function on planet earth at the return of Yahshua as Priests and Kings over specific peoples and territories. Revelation 1:6; Revelation 5:9-10. Because those who subscribe to the pseudo-kingdom dogmas are encouraged to be indoctrinated in ideas and world-views of their leaders, they are not motivated to diligently search the scriptures to learn the truth under inspiration of the real Holy Spirit. This dangerous situation leads to a scenario of the blind leading the blind.

A.5. OTHER FAILINGS OF THE PSEUDO-KINGDOM MOVEMENT

On two other things the various facets of the Pseudo Kingdom movement also agree. One is that the Church is dead and that the name “Christianity” is obnoxious. The second is that the bible is not inerrant and is insufficient

to guide us into proper knowledge of Elohim. The result is that many men and women arise with all manner of personal doctrines that at times contradict the Holy Writ and yet they are marketed as truth. Because of the sweetness of their words, you could follow those who teach such errors for three years or more without picking the full dimension of their departure from the faith. Praise Elohim that He has guaranteed His remnant security through the help of the Holy Spirit (See 2 Peter 2 and 3; Jude 24-25; 1 John 2: 18-28.)

Contrary to such pernicious doctrines and premature celebration, the Church of Yahshua Jesus is not dead and cannot die. The Church is the Body of Yahshua Himself. It comprises all who are redeemed by the Blood, whether they believe it; know it or not. Anyone who is redeemed by the Blood that Yahshua, Jesus shed at the Cross of Calvary is a citizen of the eternal Kingdom and part of the Ecclesia otherwise known as Church which will be translated at the appearance of Yahshua, Jesus. As His Body, the Church is part of Him. He is the head of the Church and the source of its power and relevance on this side of eternity. The Church was birthed on the day of Pentecost and will fulfil its assignment when He returns, puts down all rebellion and reward the saints who overcome with co-ruler ship of the earth with Him in the full phase of manifestation of the Kingdom of Elohim. In this present phase of time and life, we are all citizens of the Kingdom and collectively the Church of Yahshua, Jesus.

In the gracious plan of Yahshua, Jesus, He has a remnant in every generation who faithfully hold on to the truth and worship Yahweh in Spirit (See John 4:21-24.) This remnant is sustained by the visitations of the Holy Spirit which renew the Church and keep saints in the mood that He described as the “wise virgins” waiting for the D-Day (See Matthew 25: 1-13.) To warn against complacency and a spirit of “let us fold our hands to wait and see,” Yahshua, Jesus in various scriptures taught that the Church has an assignment to fulfil while waiting. This dual mandate of the Kingdom driven and Kingdom proclaiming Church is the hallmark of the balanced gospel. That is what is referred to as “Occupy, Till I Come” in Luke 19:11-27.

B. THE FIVE PILLARS OF REFORMATION AND RESTORATION

While on earth the Church and all the saints who make it up have serious work to do. That work requires that there be fresh vigor injected into its fiber by the visitation of the Holy Spirit from time to time. For the emergent Omega Church to be what it should be and do what it ought to do there is need for five imperatives to come into manifestation.

B.1. RESTORATION OF THE TEACHING OF THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF ELOHIM IN HIS REVEALED WILL.

This will involve making the Holy Scriptures – the Bible - final authority in all things that are preached, taught and practiced in the Church. Our catch phrase should be “I am for all that is revealed in the Word.”

B.2. RESTORATION OF PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE CHURCH IS AND ITS PRESENT IMPORT IN THE ETERNAL KINGDOM OF ELOHIM.

The Church is not the building where we gather once or twice or more during the week. The Church is also not an organization. The Church is simply the Body of Yahshua, Jesus, comprising all who put their trust for salvation on Him alone. The Church at ground zero level is the coming together of two or more saints, gathered unto the Lord to experience the love of the Father and one another; edification, prayer and fellowship, regardless of where that meeting takes place (See Matthew 18: 19-20.) This could be in a home, office, in a car, a trailer or in a distinct building. For this reason, the saints are brought to a new consciousness of why they need to effectively represent Him wherever they find themselves and to take the Church –the called out people - from the building to the community. Where we gather as fellowship centers simply assume their rightful importance as Kingdom training and equipping centers which the fivefold use as launch pad to prepare the saints for work of ministry.

B.3. RESTORATION OF UNDERSTANDING OF HOLY SPIRIT BY SOUND BIBLICAL TEACHING AND OPENNESS TO HIS OFFICE AND WORK

When Saints embrace Him, accept His gifts and walk as vessels through which He manifests Yahshua, the literarily become effective parts of His

Body. In other words, saints should lend their vessels to Holy Spirit as instruments of manifesting divinity anywhere they are.

B.4. RESTORATION OF THE FIVEFOLD AS HEADSHIP GIFTS OF YAHSHUA FOR HIS CHURCH.

There is absolutely no doubt that no saint can ever achieve his or her full potentials until the synergy released from the operation of the leadership gifts of Yahshua – Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers – are received and utilized. This truth in Ephesians 4: 11-16 is so critical to restoring the reality of the Church as a corporate witness to Yahshua which will command the respect of powers of darkness (See Ephesians 3:10.) Please study GSOM Course 112: The Ascension Office Gifts and Course 115: Leadership in the Household of Faith.

B.5. RESTORATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS AS THE SOUND BASIS OF MANIFESTATION OF ALL SAINTS AS THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDECK MODELLED BY YAHSHUA, JESUS OUR HIGH PRIEST.

The truth must be told – no matter how inconvenient that it is the ONLY acceptable pattern of ministry in the Kingdom Church. This is what will bring us back to where the Church was before it was effectively side tracked (in some cases hijacked by the spirit of religion.) This is the core purpose which GSOM Course 113 will seek to achieve.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. 12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:7-13

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-10

Let us get ready to dwell on the word to understand what Spiritual gifts are and how central they are to manifestation of the organic Kingdom Church which is a living, loving organism rather than a dry religious organization.

CHAPTER 2

UNDERSTANDING THE SEAL MEASURE OF HOLY SPIRIT

With the foundation laid from previous chapters, it is now imperative that we begin, by the Spirit, an exposition of the core scriptures on the subject matter say. Let us first take note that Paul, the main instrument heavens used to explain what spiritual gifts are also explained how they are designed to function on the only foundation, Yahshua, Jesus. In this regard, the point is clearly made that the Kingdom Church, being part of the Divine nature of its head, Yahshua, Jesus comprises several parts that are gifted by Holy Spirit to manifest Him to one another and the world. Writing to people from idolatrous Gentile backgrounds, Paul made sure their minds were taken off organizational models they may have been familiar with. What He was about to share was clearly revolutionary.

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.² Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.³ Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. 1 Corinthians 12:1-3

What follows in the rest of 1 Corinthians 12 is an exhaustive treatise of the organic nature of the Church as the very Body of Yahshua, its Head and how each saint is in reality a specific, identifiable part of the whole which is made complete only when each part does its share in love. This is the same principle Holy Spirit used him to espouse in the Book of Romans. He began the treatise by explaining that for saints to walk in their root gifts, there is need for three imperatives:

- Death of the self-life as saints lays all of their beings on the altar of sacrifice
- Renewal of the mind so that saints manifest Kingdom culture which they imbibe.

- Avoidance of pride as a result of gift projection.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.³ For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:⁵ So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Romans 12:1-6

WHAT IS A SPIRITUAL GIFT? THREE DEFINITIONS ARE WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION:

We now begin to dig into the depth of the Word as Holy Spirit leads us on.

1. In contemporary language, *a spiritual gift is a measure of the Holy Spirit endowed on the saint for the purpose of representing Yahshua, Jesus on earth.* In other words, the plan of Yahshua for His organic Body is to use them individually and severally as channels to manifest Himself in everyday life.

2. To use an even more illustrative description, **a spiritual gift is the “showing up of the Holy Spirit through a saint.”** What this means is that whenever the Holy Spirit uses a saint to impart a blessing or demonstrate a spiritual gift, Yahshua, Jesus has been on display. This is consistent with what the Bible says in 1 Corinthians chapter 12.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 1 Corinthians 12:7

As the name implies, it is not a natural talent we speak of. Everybody on earth – saint or sinner has one or more talents. Yahweh gives talents to all humans as part of His overall responsibility as creator so that they can

function as unique beings. However, He reserves spiritual gifts only for His children who respond to His un-surpassing love expressed in the incarnation, passion, death and resurrection of Yahshua, Jesus.

3. A spiritual gift can also be defined as the part of Yahshua He has made each saint to be so that all of us can bring forth what we are to build up each other and collectively make the Church – or saints called out of the world system - a strong witness of the reality of His Presence and Power.

BASIC CONCEPT IS THE ORGANIC NATURE OF THE BODY AS A LIVING ORGANISM

To truly understand what spiritual gifts are and their function, it is needful to be delivered of the religious concept of the Church as an organization people join or a Building people go into on specific days to perform rituals and dead works. That way, we will be able to grasp the divine perspective of the Church as a living organism – the very Body of Yahshua in the earth realm – infused with the same Holy Spirit Who indwelt and empowered Yahshua for His Assignment in the earth realm.

In essence, Yahshua the Head blessed each saint to be a functional part of His Body with some spiritual gifts according to His grace.

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Romans 12:6

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:7-12

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole

body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:15-16

SOVEREIGN WILL, THEREFORE OF GRACE AND NOT BY HUMAN ABILITY.

The gifts are given by the Sovereign will of Elohim as endowments of Grace. Therefore they are not earned by works and are not even got by prayer and fasting as it were. Just as Yahshua was the Lamb slain before foundation of the world, Elohim knew every member of His Body and had purposed what each of them would be and do.

Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. Jeremiah 1:5

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Jeremiah 29:11

The plan of Yahshua is that ALL his children will discover and live out their spiritual gifts which are the basis of their Royal priesthood after the Order of Melchizedeck modelled by Him (See 1 Peter 2: 9 – 12.) As has been variously asserted, every saint is called to be a priest of the Most High. The facility to bring this to pass is the spiritual gift He bestows to ALL His children. Our present dimension of priesthood is a dress rehearsal of what we shall be in the fullness of time during the millennial reign of Yahshua, Jesus.

DECODING THE GRAND QUESTION OF THE AGES

In the centuries following the birth of the Church, one question has begged for answers. It is this: at what point does a saint receive his/her spiritual gifts? Conventional wisdom says it ONLY is when a believer presses on and is baptized in the Holy Spirit. This view has been the dominant view propounded by the Pentecostal wing of the Christian faith.

The clear spirit and letters of scripture however paint a different picture. Spiritual gifts are released on two levels. The first or basic level gifts are imparted as fundamental gifts that are wired into the saint at the point of

conversion. It is at this point that the first measure of the Holy Spirit is given to seal the saint as owned by Elohim. This truth is consistent with the fact that there is a very serious transaction which takes place when a sinner is convicted, receives a revelation of the blood of Jesus as the only price for his/her redemption and makes the value decision to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. The bible teaches in John 1:12 that as many as receive Him, Jesus gives them power to be called the Sons of Elohim. Ephesians 4: 7, 8 says when Jesus ascended to heaven, He led captive all the princes of the power of the air and gave spiritual gifts to the saints. Romans 8:9 says those who do not have the Holy Spirit living in them are not of Elohim.

These refer not to the Baptismal measure of Holy Spirit given to those who press in and are endued but to that basic measure of Him which is imparted to all who believe. The powerlessness of the Church in several communities world-wide is not the shortage of those who are filled with Holy Spirit but rather the thick cloud of darkness of ignorance which ensures that though born by the Spirit, majority of saints have no idea they are sons of Elohim, His new creation with capacity to impact fellow saints and the world. We may need to take an extract from Course 104 of the Global School of Ministry concerning the four dimensional work of the Holy Spirit in the life of saints:

- He seals saints into Yahshua, Jesus;
- Transforms the saint into the fullness of Yahshua, Jesus;
- He unites saints into one body of Yahshua, Jesus
- He empowers the saint to demonstrate the power and authority of the Kingdom.

We will look at the first and examine the others in another chapter.

SEAL OF OUR REDEMPTION

When the Holy Spirit convicts a sinner of sin and shows Jesus as the only solution, such a one repents and comes to be saved. At that point of salvation, a measure of the Holy Spirit is given to the believer. It's a SEAL that says: "*Elohim owns this one*" and a clear guarantee that he or she will be taken up by Yahshua, Jesus at His return. As the seal, the Holy Spirit takes His office as the Peace, Comforter, Advocate of the redeemed of the Lord as Yahshua Jesus Himself promised in John 14: 16, 18.

To understand the Holy Spirit as seal of the redeemed, let us consider these passages:

Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. 2 Corinthians 1:22

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Ephesians 1:13

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30

The Seal Measure is when the root/basic spiritual gift is imparted to define the new believer's spiritual identity. On the day of that the sinner is sealed into or joined to the Body of Christ, His root spiritual gift is also imparted. This gift – which may be evident or dormant – defines his or her spiritual identity. It is also known as basic or general service gifts, a phrase popularized by Chair of Global Governing Council of International Ministers Fellowship, Dr. Cosmas Ilechukwu in his ground breaking book which is recommended, and The Church of His Vision.

In other words, the Basic spiritual gifts are what the Lord, in exercise of His sovereignty makes you to be in the Body of Yahshua, Jesus. With these gifts saints are made be functional parts of the Church. When led to be part of and take their places in a local congregation it becomes what they release to others as primary ministry. The duty of a saint is not to be jealous, envious or yearn for what others are and have. It is rather to discover what they are wired to be; accept same and yield to the Holy Spirit to use them to manifest and meet the needs of others. Ephesians 4:16.

WHICH ARE THE ROOT GIFTS?

Most Root gifts are found in Romans 12: 4 – 8. When properly understood and accepted in a local congregation, the root gifts form the basis of effective Body ministry.

For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then

gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;7. Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. Romans 12:4-8

- 1.) **Prophecy** - Ability to prophesy to edify, exhort and comfort the saints; capacity to be a vessel through which God brings forth His counsel to His people. This is not the office of a Prophet.
- 2.) **Ministry/Service** - Ability to serve others joyfully with the right spirit. This gift is the root of successful ministry as a deacon/deaconess, usher, greeter and indeed most activities in the local congregation which require a commitment to service
- 3.) **Teaching** – Ability to use the Word of God to teach others and instruct in righteousness.
- 4.) **Exhortation** – Ability to encourage and stir up the spirits of brethren. This is the gift which is necessary to stir up the saints to be the best they can ever be. Unfortunately, fleshly application of this gift has led to the dominance of motivational speaking which essentially replaces sound biblical principles with psychological tools of success.
- 5.) **Generosity** – Ability to cheerfully share and distribute finances and materials to the needy.
- 6.) **Leadership** – Ability to lead the people of Elohim to fulfil purpose of the mission to which all of them are called.
- 7.) **Compassion** – Ability to empathize with those who are grieving or suffering pain. This gift is necessary for application in such professions as medicine, nursing and provision of care.

On an individual level, there are many other gifts which are imparted to enable us function above natural laws wherever Elohim has placed us. By the time we survey all the gifts, you will be able to locate your own. We have seen that contrary to what conventional wisdom teaches, there are various measures of the Holy Spirit. One measure is automatic, by which we are sealed as the property of Elohim unto the day of final redemption at the appearing of Yahshua. The Seal measure of the Holy Spirit imparts into us our basic root gifts which define our spiritual personalities. By our basic/root gifts, the most fundamental aspect of our spiritual DNA is imparted and we can then grow on to be identified, through their manifestation, as citizens of the Kingdom. There is no struggle involved in this process. The root gifts are who we are in the Spirit.

Knowing this truth does not in any way encourage saints to remain at this level and refuse to press into deeper realms of intimacy with Holy Spirit and empowerment by Him. What such knowledge rather does is to open our eyes of understanding to see that NO saint was redeemed to be a dormant LAITY sitting on the pew to receive ministry from a professional priestly caste called the Clergy. Understanding that by the Root of basic gift all saints have the divine signature that they are redeemed and owned by Yahshua literarily changes the dynamics of Church life.

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20

Knowing this truth will keep saints away from sin and enable them to press on into the fullness of what Holy Spirit desires to do with their wholly surrendered vessels which are dead to self.

CHAPTER 3

THREE DIMENSIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In order to drive home the point that we are equipped to be Kingdom citizens and Ambassadors, it is necessary to restate some of the salient aspects of Course 104 that deal with the other three dimensions of the work of the Holy Spirit in the individual saint. Here is what we shared in that strategic course:

Transform. The Holy Spirit is the divine instrument for transforming our lives so that we are progressively made to be like Yahshua, while yet on earth. He is the sap that runs through our lives as we are attached to Yahshua like a branch. So we do not need to struggle carnally to be holy. Nothing done by human effort is pleasing to Elohim (See Jeremiah 17: 5, 6.) Our job is to cling to Yahshua like a branch to a Tree while the Holy Spirit works within as we yield to Him to produce His character (See John 15: 1- 16; Philippians 1:6; Philippians 2:13.)

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Philippians 1:6

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Philippians 2:13

For the transforming ministry of the Holy Spirit to be effective, He takes His place as the Great Teacher Yahshua, Jesus promised who will guide us into all truth. (See John 14:17.) When we receive sound, anointed teaching of the word, this is the outcome:

- We are rapidly built up by the fivefold leadership to mature quickly into able ministers of the New Testament, able to do the work of the ministry without struggle (See Ephesians 4:7, 11, 12.)
- We mature to such a degree that we become strong and stable in Yahshua and therefore can no longer be victims of every wind of doctrine (See Ephesians 4:13, 14.)

- The anointing we receive from sound teaching safeguards us from the pervasive presence of false prophets and teachers of heresies (See Ephesians 4:23, 24; 1 John 2: 18 – 23, 26, and 27.) Now that Satan has played his very last card which is to cause many so called Kingdom citizens to deny the divinity of Yahshua, we need this anointing in a great measure lest we lose eternal life. This is because no one who denies the deity of Yahshua has a part in the Lamb's book of life. The preaching of the Cross (that Elohim was incarnated as Man to die for the sins of whole world) is foolishness to those who perish (See 1 Corinthians 1: 18.)
- We are able to contribute maximally to building up other brethren so that as they do likewise to us, the whole body is held together by mutual love, edification and enablement (See Ephesians 4: 15, 16.)

Other scriptures on the transforming power of the Holy Spirit are: 1 Thessalonians 5: 23, 24; Galatians 5: 16 – 24; Ephesians 4:23; Romans 12:2; Romans 8: 28 - 39; Hebrews 12: 12: 1 -15

THE TRANSFORMATION PROCESS PRODUCES FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT:

It is the transformative ministry of the Holy Spirit that produces the fruit of the Spirit, which is the character of Yahshua that enables the saint to be His witness and personal representative. It is wrong for the saints to chase after signs and wonders, especially for the wrong motives of using them to earn fame, wealth or acceptance and honor. Signs are to follow true saints while they are to chase after the fruit of the Spirit with never ending quest, praying through and allowing the Holy Spirit to use circumstances and issues like trials, tests, pain, rejection and suffering to lead us to experience deeper realms of surrender and holiness as these difficulties often drive us toward Father in prayers. (See Mark 16:17.)

Interestingly, all the attributes listed in 2 Peter 1:5-11 are but various qualities which combine to create a Christian character. We do not therefore pick and choose which of them we like or desire. We need the whole bunch of fruit to make a whole new man. Articulated in Galatians 5: 22, 23, the fruit of the spirit is the aggregation of all these virtues: Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control.

3. UNITE. When we get saved, the Holy Spirit automatically grafts us into the Body of Yahshua and unites us with other believers world-wide. We are united with each other in the Spirit as one people and members of the SAME FAMILY OF Elohim, irrespective of gender, age, socio-economic status, race or tribe or countries where we live. The various congregations we belong to are to disciple us and teach us these truths so that we will enjoy unity of the Faith (See Ephesians 4: 1-6.) Unfortunately many people allow the congregations to divide. That is what is called the spirit of denomination. It is not of our Father, works against the interests of The Kingdom and frustrates the prayer that Yahshua, Jesus prayed for His Church in John 17. We are one in the Spirit and whatever our Father has given as a gift is for all of His children as 1 Corinthians 12:7 says, we are not to commercialize or withhold any gift or grace.

Scriptures dealing with the uniting work of the Holy Spirit are as follows: Ephesians 4: 1 - 7, 11 - 16; Ephesians 2: 19 - 22; 1 Corinthians 12: 7, 11 - 27, When we realize this uniting work of the Holy Spirit, we have only one acceptable response: LOVE/CHARITY 1 Corinthians 13.

4. DEMONSTRATE. The Holy Spirit empowers believers to demonstrate the power of Yahshua, Jesus so that they can fulfil the Great Commission effectively with signs and wonders following. That is why He told His disciples not to run off and preach the gospel until they were endued with power from above (See Acts 1: 4 - 8.) It is the power we receive that is manifested in greater dimension Spiritual Gifts with which Yahshua confirms the ministry He is calling us into.

True ministry therefore is the ***EXPRESSION OR BRINGING FORTH of what WE ARE IMPRESSED WITH BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.*** When we bring forth what He put in us, we are engaged in ministry. Every believer who is filled with Holy Spirit is thus equipped by to be a conveyor of the Power of the Risen Yahshua through the particular gifts of the Holy Spirit received. We are not just to be satisfied with merely speaking in tongues and fleshly induced disorderly behavior done supposedly in the name of the Holy Spirit. Tongues are a sign of what is stored inside. Romans 12: 3 - 8 and 1 Corinthians 12 analyze the gifts we receive. 1 Peter 4: 10, 11 tell us that we have a duty to exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit we receive as an obligation to the Body.

Scriptures which confirm this are: Mark 16: 15 - 18; Acts 1: 4 - 8; Acts 2: 1 - 39, Joel 2:28 - 32; Romans 12: 3 - 8; the whole of 1 Corinthians 12, especially verses 1 - 11, 28 -30 and Ephesians 4: 7 – 12.

With the above, we can now see the sad state of the supposed brethren at Ephesians deserve who had no knowledge of the Holy Spirit and who had not experienced Him until they encountered Paul. Please take note that they were not truly saved because they had not heard the full gospel of salvation in Yahshua alone and were not even baptized in water.

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,² He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.³ And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.⁴ Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.⁵ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.⁶ And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. Acts 19:1-6

In continuation of discussions from the Seal measure, we now need to bring forth how the demonstrative dimension of the Holy Spirit works out in the gifts of the Holy Spirit that are outlined in 1 Corinthians chapter 12 especially verses 4 – 6. We will also show how and why these particular gifts are enablers to give our ministries the cutting edge required to succeed.

POWER GIFTS ARE ACTIVATED WITH THE BAPTISM.

As stated earlier, when the Holy Spirit convicts a hitherto sinner and seals him or her into the Body of Christ, a gift or collection of gifts are automatically imparted to define that person as a functional part of the living organism which is the Church. That is not the end of His work in the area of spiritual gifts. The Lord expects the saint to yearn for the fullness of the Holy Spirit with zeal in earnest prayer. In response, the Lord Jesus releases the Holy Spirit to fill up the saint in what is called the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit simply fills up the vessel of the ready saint to the degree of effervescent effusion that translates into speaking in unknown and unlearned tongues. This blessed experience can be had in a revival meeting, a regular church service, in a home or indeed anywhere. As Elohim, Holy Spirit is not bound to fit into neat religious boxes built by us. The model we have is the walk of Yahshua, Jesus with His disciples. In a sense, the disciples were products of two dispensations – the Old and the New. After 331/2 years, Yahshua Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to finally seal His claim to Messiah-ship.

In John 20:22, Jesus sealed their faith in him with a measure of the Holy Spirit. Yet He charged them to tarry in Jerusalem to receive the promise of the Father. Acts 1: 1 – 8. This is consistent with the words Jesus spoke in John 14: 17 *“He dwells with you and will be in you.”*

TO REJECT POWER OF HOLY SPIRIT IS TO WALK IN LESS.

Though sealed, the disciples were unable to demonstrate their identity publicly. The 120 who obeyed Him and spent an extra 10 days after His ascension were rewarded when on the day of Pentecost; they were filled to overflow with the Holy Spirit (See Acts 2: 1 -4.) His presence and power transformed timid men and added new zest to their lives. Moving in that strength and power, the disciples were able to turn the then world upside down in spite of the limitations of their intellect and finances.

In various parts of Acts of the Apostles, there is concrete evidence that though sealed by the Holy Spirit on conversion, saints were led into further encounters with Him which caused them to walk in the fullness of His Presence and Power. At Samaria, the people that Philip led to Yahshua (See Acts 8:1-13) received the Holy Spirit when Peter came from Jerusalem and laid hands on them (verses 14 – 17). In Acts chapter 9, we also see that though the then Saul was saved at his unforgettable encounter with Yahshua, Jesus on the road to Damascus (verses 1-9), he received the infilling of the Holy Spirit only when the obscure disciple Ananias laid hands on him (verses 10 – 17.)

In Acts 18, we see that Apollos, a man who was to be one of the great Apostles of his time was at that time, an eloquent preacher but was ignorant of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. It took an obscure but already imparted

couple, Priscilla and Aquila to give him a better and fuller understanding of the full counsel of Elohim.

And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.²⁵ This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.²⁶ And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.²⁷ And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:²⁸ For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ. Acts 18:24-28

By negating the ordinance of Elohim in favor of walking only in the Seal Measure, Evangelicals and other denominations who despise infilling of Holy Spirit are doing a great disservice to saints. If we must come to fullness of our destiny in Yahshua, saints need to press on to experience the baptism in the Holy Spirit. When this happens, there is an impartation of the gifts outlined in 1 Corinthians chapter 12 and the energization or activation of the gift or gifts imparted when the transition from sinner to saint was made.

To use the words of Dr. Cosmas Ilechukwu in the Church of His vision, “the Baptism in the Spirit heralds the beginning of the dominance of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. At the baptism in the Spirit, the believer bows in total surrender to the control and dominance of the Holy Spirit. This attitude of surrender is very basic requirement to power ministry. The believer demonstrates this “yieldedness” by speaking in an unknown tongue, which most of the time is meaningless to him.

Yielding to the gift of tongues is the first step designed by God to reclaim the mind, the seat of human intellect, will and emotions, which the devil distorted at Eden when our first parents reasoned themselves out of the will of God for mankind. Speaking in unknown tongues is therefore a triumph over rationalism, which was man’s undoing in the tragedy of Eden. It is submission to the superior wisdom of God. This perhaps gives us a handle

to understanding why it seems the most universal experience of all who have received the baptism with the Holy Spirit”

Let no one deceive you with dead denominational dogmas: saints today need the Holy Spirit even much more as we are now in the close of the age. Our grand need is HIM and not more money, better buildings, more exciting programs or radio/television publicity. All these things, without Him and His power produce religion and spiritual death.

It is critical that we understand this reality: spiritual gifts are not given for us to use only when in “congregational settings” or when assembled within four walls of brick and mortar. The gifts are to define who we are in the spirit so that:

- No one will know us after the flesh
- Our gifts are to make way for us in all things concerning our earthly walk.

For this reason, we need to be sensitive and wait on Holy Spirit to prompt us as to when He wishes to use us to release a measure of the Presence and Power of Yahshua rather than our using Him to accomplish carnal objectives. In this regard, our entire lives – including in business, jobs should be platforms for Holy Spirit to manifest in and through us. For this reason, it is needful that parents need to help their children to choose careers that offer great opportunities for their spiritual gifts to manifest in everyday life. For instance young people with the gift of compassion should be encouraged to embrace the Health Care industry; those with the gift of teaching should embrace the Educational Industry.

HOLY SPIRIT AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE AMBASSADORIAL CREDENTIALS

Every Ambassador is vested with credentials which to function in assigned territory. When Jesus was incarnated, divinity invaded humanity and eternity came into time. With His birth, the Kingdom of Elohim was invading planet earth again. It is interesting that in order to function in His Messianic Office; Yahshua, Jesus needed to present His letters of credence to earthlings. During this time before attaining the age of 30, He did no miracle and preached no sermon before the age of 30. The only exception was the incident at the temple when he was left behind by Mary and Joseph at the age of 12 recorded in Luke 2: 41 – 52.

At the age of thirty when He came for the baptism of John, the Father spoke from heaven and declared Him to be the beloved Begotten Son. The Holy Spirit then descended on Him like a Dove and He was endued with the fullness of the Power to function (given the Spirit without measure.). Read this glorious neglected truth in these scriptures: Luke 3: 21 – 23; Matthew 3: 13 – 17; John 1: 29 – 34; John 3:23 – 36. From there, His ministry exploded with mighty manifestations.

If the very Son of Elohim; if He who came from heaven needed the Holy Spirit to function on planet earth, we who are mortals need the Power of the Holy Spirit much more. Holy Spirit is the evidence of our belonging to Elohim as the seal measure shows. His power at work within and through us constitutes the main credentials we present to the world as Ambassadors of the Kingdom. Ours is a supernatural Kingdom and we are to be living proofs of this reality.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8

NO TO PARTIAL FILLING

Let it be noted that when saints in the Evangelical community walk in the seal, transform and unite measures of Holy Spirit alone, they cannot be fulfilled in manifestation of their divine identities and destinies. Those in the Pentecostal community who go for only the Demonstrative measure and do not give room for the Transformation and Uniting measures often become so besotted by the miracles and manifestations of power that their characters come short of the nature and lifestyle of Yahshua, Jesus who they are supposed to represent. They tend to be partisan, revert to organizational building patterns and use the gifts to build religious empires. The Omega or Kingdom Church cannot afford to cherry-pick which dimension of Holy Spirit to receive and walk in. The Omega Church will embrace and walk in all dimensions of Holy Spirit and be thus known by those outside the Kingdom.

CHAPTER 4

THE ENABLING GIFTS: EXPOSITION OF 1 CORINTHIANS 12

Two broad groups of gifts appear in 1 Corinthians chapter 12. The first are those outlining the gifts of the Holy Spirit for the purpose of enabling the saint to achieve cutting edge in ministry and calling. These are found in verses 8 – 10. The second group of gifts are in verses 28 which deal with the office/leadership gifts. These leadership gifts, their purpose and outcomes are further outlined in Ephesians chapter 4 verses 11 – 16.

THE ENABLING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

These gifts are referred to as “enabling” because they bring forth the sharpness of power in the root gifts of Romans Chapter 12:4-8 or the Fivefold office gifts/functions in Ephesians 4:11. These gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 enable saints so blessed to demonstrate the reality of being Ambassadors sent by and representing Yahshua, Jesus to those who encounter them whether in day to day life or in ministry. In a clear sense, manifestation of the enabling spiritual gifts and indeed all spiritual gifts confirm the principle of Acts 1:8 which is to make the saint a clear witness for Yahshua, Jesus.

In summary, let it be restated that whether a saint is called to basic ministry in everyday life; serve in the local congregation or is called to function in the fivefold office or represent Yahshua, Jesus as an ambassador in the Market Place, the receipt of the gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 verses 8 – 10 will provide the extra capacity to fulfil his/her ministry.

SIX UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

Manifestation of the Spirit, not switching on and off at will of the saint.

Before we proceed into examination of each of the specific gifts, it is necessary that we understand six underlying principles concerning spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (KJV) 4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

From these verses we learn some foundational principles that will help us to receive one another, bond together and be mutually blessed by what all joints supply according to Ephesians 4:16:

- There are diversities of Spiritual gifts. Because of this, necessity is upon us to know them all, rather than focus only on our own gifts. Knowing will enable us to receive each other as members of the same body who are on assignment to bless one another. When this is so, we will not know each other by the flesh any more – gender, age, race, ethnicity, financial status or family background. We will rather know people by who they are in the Spirit, evidenced by what He uses them to release.
- Not only are there diverse gifts, the way they manifest and operate vary according to how Holy Spirit uses individuals. Knowing this truth is very critical so that we will not misjudge the motives and intents of people because their spiritual gifts manifest differently from ours or how we are familiar with. We will not attempt to shut down manifestations which vary from ours but will give room for all brethren to flow in liberty of son-ship, as long as they are not disruptive or disorderly.
- The grand purpose of Elohim is to use the saint as a channel to express divinity for the purpose of blessing other saints and humanity. This notion lies at the heart of a proper understanding and application of all the gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12: 8 – 10 and indeed the entire issue of spiritual gifts.

- We cannot and should not attempt to use the gifts as we will, out of emotion or carnal considerations or to show off. We have no right to control the Holy Spirit by determining when to use spiritual gifts and when not to use them. They are appropriately called “manifestations of the Spirit” or, in contemporary language, “the showing up” of the Holy Spirit.
- The core principle here is that Holy Spirit alone knows when and how He wants to show up to demonstrate His Presence and Power through a yielded vessel. The Holy Spirit in effect wants to have right of way to determine when He wants to demonstrate the reality of the Risen and Glorified Yahshua, Jesus and power of His Kingdom through the chosen vessel.
- In effect, He knows when to turn us on and when to keep us mum. We have nothing to prove and we are reminded the futility of doing anything in the flesh or by our own desire. Yahshua, Jesus once told the disciples that when they are hauled before civil courts and authorities, they should not bother to premeditate on what to say. At the very hour, the Lord will show up and put words in their mouths. This principle was well understood and observed by the Prophets of old who only spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit
1 Peter 1: 20,21

THE 9 ENABLING GIFTS

Let us now examine the 9 enabling spiritual gifts which are manifestations of the Holy Spirit through vessels He chooses in the Body to impart and impact others:

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 1 Corinthians 12:8-10

- 1.) **Word of Wisdom** – This is the supernatural utterance of the mind of Elohim concerning the direction to go on a matter through the

saint who has been gifted. Holy Spirit uses the saint He chooses to reveal what is to happen or provide clear solutions to protracted problems. It is a gift of insight into the mind of Elohim Who alone is the wellspring of wisdom. Word of wisdom can come forth within the context of a church service, in a business meeting, in government and in everyday life, including the home, at school or indeed everywhere. Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers need this gift. Saints in the Market Place also need the gift.

It is critical to note that this gift is called “word of wisdom”. This implies the gift is not as such a property of the saint. The saint does not have a storehouse of this gift to gush it out at will, otherwise, he/she can be tempted to play Elohim. The gift is designed in such a way that the saint cannot of his/her own turn it on and off at will. Those who Holy Spirit has blessed as channels of conveying this gift are called to be sober and of few words so that their dispositions can be conducive to its manifestation.

- 2.) **Word of Knowledge** – Word of Knowledge is the revelation of present realities that are hidden from natural minds. The mind of man is limited in understanding and often beclouded from various degrees of reality. Holy Spirit however chooses some saints, on His own volition, as channels for revealing what is hidden.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN WORD OF WISDOM AND WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

Word of knowledge differs from word of wisdom in these contexts:

- Word of wisdom deals with things in the future while word of knowledge deal with things in the now or present.
- Word of wisdom shows solutions to problems and times when certain things will be consummated while word of knowledge reveals facts of a present matter.

If a minister while preaching or ministering suddenly says “there is a woman to my right who has been diagnosed with a heart condition but the Lord has taken it away now as we speak” and it accurately reveals what was unknown, a word of knowledge has taken place.

If a brother or sister seeks counsel from a Pastor concerning a complicated matter but receive a simple word which cuts through the mass to reveal the way forward and it resonates in the heart and causes joy to break forth, a word of wisdom has been experienced. If in a business or government meeting there is a complex problem and everyone is at a loss of what is the best way forward or when best to initiate a project and a saint comes forth with a clear and precise solution either orally or in writing without any burning of midnight candles or tossing about with many ideas, the word of wisdom has been manifested.

It is a sad thing that the devil has tried to convince saints to confine spiritual gifts within the ambit of buildings they call 'churches'. In this final dispensation, saints need to know that each of us is the primal church or habitation of Elohim by His Spirit. Whatever gift the Lord blesses us with is the sure measure of His desire to use us to impact our world. Our gift will make a way for us.

- 3.) **Faith** –The gift of faith is supernatural ability to know what Elohim can do, what He will do and to stand and declare same with all confidence. This gift is sorely needed in demonstrating the reality of the Kingdom in all spheres of endeavor. Whether in Church leadership, in Government and the Market place, the gift of faith enables the channel through whom Holy Spirit speaks to rally the saints and sinners alike to believe Him as the Alpha and Omega. Elijah exhibited the dual gifts of word of wisdom and faith when he declared with certainty to the woman of Zarephath that Elohim will supply all her needs in 1 Kings 17: 8 – 16. The gift of Faith is beyond the normal grace of faith every saint is called to have in Elohim.
- 4.) **Gifts of Healing** – This is the gift through which the Holy Spirit imparts grace from the stripes that Yahshua, Jesus suffered at the Roman Praetorium to bring healing to infirmities of the body and soul. It is important to note that this is a compound gift or basket of gifts “gifts of healing”. This implies that it is a gift whose operation is outside the box.

Yahshua, Jesus and the early disciples demonstrated the use of this gift mix at various times in ministry. There were those Yahshua, Jesus healed from a distance such as the servant of the Centurion. There are those He administered healing merely touching them such as the lepers who were

cleansed. There are others who received healing by touching and drawing the virtue in Him to touch and take away their infirmities such as the woman with the issue of blood. In yet another instance, Yahshua, Jesus used His spittle and soil as points of contact. At the Gate Beautiful in Acts 3: 1- 7 Peter and John were used of the Lord to heal by lifting a crippled man up as the word of healing was uttered. In Acts 5: 12 – 16, the shadow of Peter was a point of contact for impartation of healing virtue. In Acts 9: 32-34, Holy Spirit used Peter to heal Aeneas by the word of authority. Paul the Apostle was used mightily by Holy Spirit to bring healing to many. In Acts 19:11, 12, handkerchiefs from Paul's body were used as points of contact for healing.

To prove that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are to be used at His prompting and not that of the believer's will or mindset we see that in 2 Timothy 4:20, Paul left his aide Trophimus sick at Miletus. Paul could not of his own will and ability switch on the gift to decree healing at will. He acted as prompted by the Holy Spirit. Even Yahshua, Jesus Himself, while on earth did not heal every one. The people of Nazareth allowed familiarity and unbelief to hinder them from receiving the miracles of Yahshua. The man at the Beautiful Gate was there in the days that He walked the earth and yet was not healed. Elohim had evidently ordained that Peter and John would be the vessel through who healing would be manifested and that through that incident; a great door will be opened for the early Church.

Modern day evangelists who make wild claims of ability to heal every one or prophesy to everyone present in promotional materials advertising their meetings are advertising their immaturity or ignorance in the ways of the Spirit. We cannot bulldoze the Holy Spirit to do what we want. We can only prepare our hearts and beings to be acceptable channels through which He will show up at His own time and place of choice.

- 5.) **Working of Miracles** – This is another compound gift. It is the supernatural ability to be used by Holy Spirit to cause the supernatural to manifest in the natural. Miracles can occur in various forms and ways. In the case of Joshua, the gift caused a major shift in weather conditions when the Sun and Moon stood still while he completed the divine assignment. In the case of Jesus, Elisha and Paul, the dead were raised.

PURPOSE OF MIRACLES

Miracles are also manifested in gifts of healing and can encompass every area of life. In this closing chapter of the age, we need to demonstrate the power of the Kingdom through miracles. Miracles are also referred to as signs and wonders because whenever they occur; they signify the presence of the Kingdom and keep people in wonderment which opens a door for preaching of the true gospel.

Luke 11:20 (KJV)20 But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.

This is the critical essence for their manifestation according to Mark 16: 15 – 18. Those who use miracles for self-glory or to make money are in danger of judgement and eternal condemnation. We are also warned not to fall into the trap of doing miracles in order to impress people or out of pressure to prove who we are. Luke 11: 29-32.

- 6.) **Prophecy** – a prophecy takes place whenever Elohim communicates to His people through a chosen vessel. According to 1 Corinthians 14:3, the ***purpose of Prophecy is to Edify, Exhort and Encourage*** the saints. This gift is manifested so that the saints will have the peace and comfort which Yahshua promised them even in the face of adverse conditions created by the world and its human governments or systems. John 16:33. In Acts 15:32, we see that Judas and Silas were used of Holy to encourage and comfort the saints.

Saints are exhorted to desire to flow in the prophetic. The reason is that wherever true prophecy flourishes, the saints walk in greater light. They are able to hear what the Lord has to say and adjust their life courses and make choices accordingly.

JUDGING PROPHECY

Prophecy should however not be swallowed hook, line and sinker. Prophecy should be judged and evaluated as to the implications of following what it says. Will that lead the saints to a more intimate relationship with the Lord or draw them away? Will following the prophetic release cause the saints to walk in greater realms of depth of understanding and submission to the will

of Elohim or not? Is the prophecy consistent with the express word of Elohim or negates the word? Will it cause strife, division and activate ambition and carnality? For this reason, a simple rule is recommended to all saints: “Thus saith the Lord” should never negate “it is written.” In addition, saints need to be cautious when a vessel through whom a word of prophecy is uttered begins to campaign the release, seeking to influence, control or manipulate the hearers. Prophecy is supposed to flow from Holy Spirit through the spirit-man of the saint. Once the soul – the realm of mind, will and emotion – intrude into the process, corruption will follow.

- 7.) **Discerning of Spirits** – This is the supernatural ability to rightly identify the nature, source and capacity of the spirits at work in the life of people. It is also the ability to discern the motive behind what some one is saying, even if the words appear nice and sounds right.

Paul the Apostle demonstrated this gift to great effect at Ephesus when he identified the spirit of divination at work in the life of the young slave girl who correctly called him and his team as servants of Elohim. The description of Paul and companions was true. However, Paul rightly discerned the demon which possessed and used her vessel to speak.

Acts 16:16-18(KJV) 16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: 17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. 18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

This gift will help local congregations to identify infiltrators who, like the Gibeonites in the days of Joshua, will sneak into the fold having all outward forms of conformity but with clear agendas to destroy fellowship for selfish purposes.

- 8.) **Speaking in Tongues.** This gift should be properly called communicating messages from Elohim in other tongues. It is different from the general sign of the infilling in the Holy Spirit which is accompanied by utterance in other tongues as in Acts 2: 1-6.

Here in 1 Corinthians 12:10, it speaks of the ability to receive and communicate to saints in any setting, a message from the Lord. Not every saint is blessed with this gift as 1 Corinthians 12:28 shows. Those who try to pretend that they have it are guilty of lying and passing off under false pretense. Judgement day beckons when Elohim will bring everything to light and judge people for what they did in His name 2 Corinthians 5:10. This is the most abused practice in Pentecostal and Charismatic communities largely because of two factors – Ignorance and Indiscipline.

9.) **Interpretation of Tongues.** This is the supernatural ability to interpret messages that are conveyed through the gift of tongues. This is one of the major missing gifts in the House hold of faith today. Yet this is a sorely needed gift that can save the Church so much trouble. This gift is like a decoding mechanism that rightly expounds to the people whatever the Holy Spirit brings forth through the gift of tongues. This is not the same as translation. Those who translate are skilled to interpret words for accurate meaning. The gift of interpreting tongues simply conveys in understandable language with clarity, the message uttered in tongues. 1 Corinthians 14: 6-13 reveal that Elohim does not want His people to be in the dark concerning what He says to them. In John 10: 27, Jesus made it clear that His sheep hear His voice.

From what we have seen so far, these 9 gifts are to be used at the prompting and direction of the Holy Spirit. When they are rightly exercised, they prove beyond a shadow of doubt that the present dispensation of the Kingdom is on the march and demand appropriate response from those who are outside.

CHAPTER 5

IDENTIFYING OTHER SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Thus far, we have seen 7 spiritual gifts in Romans 12: 6 – 8; and 9 in 1 Corinthians 12: 8- 10. This makes a total of 16. The Other Spiritual gifts in scripture are as follows:

17.) **Helps - 1 Corinthians 12:28(KJV)**28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

This is the gift to graciously support another person or persons to fulfil vision received from Yahshua for an aspect of manifestation or expansion of the sphere of His Kingdom Church. This gift is an exceptional one and is sorely needed for the true Kingdom Church to manifest Yahshua to the world. Those who manifest this gift fit into the Yahshua mold and prescription of servant leadership in John 13: 1- 17; Matthew 20: 24 – 28.

Those who have the gift of helps are dead to self. They are thus able to embrace any vision to which they are called as if it were their own. They easily buy into visions and are great helpers of work in the hands of Frontline Ministers and visionaries. Their faithfulness and commitment to Yahshua as Head of the Church, the vision given and vessel chosen as visionary or leader is legendary. Any ministry that is blessed with those in the ministry of helps will enjoy unprecedented growth. The reason is that they make great helpers of the work in the manner described in 1 Chronicles 12: 1- 38.

Those who are called to the office of deacons, ushers and various supportive ministries often excel if there is a basic gift of helps in their lives. Luke 8:1-3 gives us a picture of some women who were active in the ministry of helping Jesus by taking care of the various needs that He had. Phoebe the deaconess, Priscilla and Aquila, Ephenetus and Mary were helpers of Paul the apostle.

I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cencrea:2 That ye receive her in the Lord,

as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.³ Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:⁴ Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.⁵ Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my well-beloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.⁶ Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us.⁷ Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellow-prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.⁸ Greet Amplias my beloved in the Lord.⁹ Salute Urbane, our helper in Christ, and Stachys my beloved. Romans 16:1-9(KJV)

All true visionaries sent by Yahshua have other saints specifically assigned to be helpers of the work. Those who fail to take their places are cheating themselves as they will find out on the last day.

Governments. Between Romans 12:8 and 1 Corinthians 12: 28, there are two gifts implied in the term “Governments.” One is Leadership while the other is Administration.

Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. Romans 12:8

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:28

18.) **Leadership**- Leadership is the gift to lead any unit of saints into a fresh expression of His purpose or expansion of the scope of existing Presence. Leadership is a gift with macro-management perspective. Those who are gifted for leadership are equipped with strategic understanding of the purpose and vision from Elohim and are able to assemble, by the Spirit and without struggle, the mix of various gifts and callings required for success.

19.) **Administration**-Administration on the other hand is the gift of managing human and material resources for optimum outcomes at the basic unit level. This is a gift that gives one the grace to micro manage. Administrators are supportive ministers who give effect to the smaller details and fine prints. They make things happen because of the grace for

detail. To be found here are people who run ministry offices, secretaries, personal assistants.

20.) **Celibacy** -Yahshua, Jesus spoke of this gift when He issued the New Testament rule of Marriage as a union between a man and woman who become one.

His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry.11 But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given.12 For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it. Matthew 19:10-12

This gift enables one to live for Elohim and be wholly content, free of pressures of sexuality or the need to procreate. There are many who Elohim has given this gift but who do not want to accept because of over emphasis on marriage in the modern Church and cultural stereotypes against singles. Such people know fully well that they will live better without the yoke of marriage and yet because of such cultural mindsets, they force themselves into relationships where Elohim is not involved and honored. In that case, marriage is endured and not enjoyed.

Paul the Apostle received this gift, was content and fulfilled as he poured out his life as a drink offering to the Lord. He was thus able to expressly encourage other believers to follow his example (See 1 Corinthians 7: 1-2, 7 – 9, 25 – 35, 37 – 40.)

Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. 1 Corinthians 7:1-2

21.) **Hospitality**-In 1 Peter 4:9, saints are urged to engage in the ministry of hospitality as an avenue to promote the Kingdom life. In 1 Timothy 3:2, those who aspire to be Bishops are required to be hospitable because they will deal with different kinds of people.

The gift of hospitality however enables the saint to operate at a higher level where receiving and refreshing brethren and visitors becomes a ministry and calling pursued passionately. Those with this gift are ever willing to share what the Lord has blessed them with. It has no bearing with whether they are wealthy or not because the gift operates with a mindset and attitude that recognizes the activity as a Holy Spirit imparted and led mandate. Those who have the gift of hospitality do not discriminate and treat brethren differently according to spiritual, social or economic standing. They open their doors and cheerfully share their meals with those who come in. Their cheerful disposition backed by the love of Yahshua, Jesus which compels them make such people effective in providing platforms of unity where brethren find the 3 legged fellowship complete (Fellowship of the Heart; the Table and the Knees).

Martha, Mary and Lazarus distinguished themselves in providing rest and refreshment for Yahshua, Jesus on a regular basis. Stephanas was singled out by Paul as having excelled in the gift of hospitality. For this reason, he was commended to the house hold of faith as a man who others should submit to.

I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)16 That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth. 1 Corinthians 16:15-16

You will know that this gift is in operation when you have a deep desire to bring people home, have them refreshed and possibly sleep over. There will be no showing off involved but a deep sense of spiritual duty of love to fellow saints and visiting ministers. Where these kinds of saints exist, there will be no need to spend money to host visiting ministers in hotels.

22.) **Missionary** – This gift is implied in scripture. It is the supernatural grace to easily fit into and function in cultures other than the familiar for the principal purpose of advancing frontiers of the gospel. The apostolic call of Paul and Barnabas was predicated on this supernatural equipping.

Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.2 As they

ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.³ And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.⁴ So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. Acts 13:1-4

Yahshua, Jesus Himself laid the foundation for this gift/calling with the final words He uttered before ascending to heaven in Acts 1:8.

Among those in various mission fields of the world it is easy to distinguish those who are gifted for cross cultural ministry from those who are simply pursuing a ministry career. Those who are gifted do not complain because they do not proceed into mission work with any expectations. They receive a commission from the Lord and are led by the Holy Spirit to proceed to particular places. They trust Elohim wholly and commit themselves 100 percent to Him for protection and provision.

With the right attitude, they are able to fit into any environment where the Lord sends them. With time, they are able to discern the locals that have been ordained to support them. They plunge into the work whole heartedly, adapt to the food and normal life of their host communities, endure hardness, learn the local language/dialect and do not carry on any airs as people from a superior culture. Consequently, they are able to integrate and be effective witnesses for Yahshua. Acts 1:8. The gospel they present is often accepted because their persons, lifestyle and attitudes make a positive mark on those to whom they are sent.

23.) **Intercession** – This is the special ability to stand in the gap between Elohim and someone else, family, community, city, state, county/province, nation or people group – saved or not. This gift and calling is implied yet intensely practical in everyday life. It has been proved in many countries that very few people have this special ministry to pray effectually for other people for a sustained/prolonged period of time without agendas and at times unknown by those they intercede for. In Luke 2: 36 – 37, Prophet Anna enjoyed only 7 years of marriage before she was widowed. She devoted the rest of her life to intercede for the visitation of Elohim and by the time she was 84, the manifestation of the prayers was the incarnation and birth of Yahshua, Jesus.

Intercession is generally misunderstood. The core definition however is this: *Intercession is partnering with Elohim for the manifestation of His will on earth.* Intercessors are thus spiritual midwives primarily whose core purpose is to see to the coming of the Kingdom of Elohim and the emergence of His supreme will in all situations Matthew 6:10.

Those gifted as intercessors are necessarily dead to self. It takes selflessness to truly stand in the gap for a fellow human being or the purpose of the Most High. For over 10 years a group of such intercessors based in Owerri, Imo State in the Eastern part of the nation of Nigeria have been wholly consecrated to the Lord to intercede for Apostle George, Pastor Grace, their children and the various teams of saints working with them world-wide. They are not paid for their labors. In London England, other saints have walked in the grace to intercede for emergence of the Omega Church in this generation. On Day Break with the King and 24/7 Global Prayer Center, using Conference call and face book as platforms, hundreds of saints from North and South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania back up this commission with all their hearts. Our prayer is that most of those who have signed up will be gifted for the assignment by the Holy Spirit.

THE “FORGOTTEN” GIFTS

24.) The Gift of Dreaming Dreams

Dreams are one of the ways Elohim communicates with His people. In every generation Holy Spirit lays hold of some people and reveals present or future events to them. In the Old Testament, there were a few notable dreamers. Joseph was exceptional in the sense that he had two associated gifts: dreaming dreams and interpreting them. With dreams, he was set on the course of destiny. With the gift of interpretation, he stepped into it as Prime Minister of Egypt (See Genesis chapters 37, 40, 41.)

In Joel 2: 28, 29 where the outpouring whose first part was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost was prophesied accurately, dreaming of dreams was indicated as one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. Joel 2:28-29

Speaking by the Spirit, Apostle Peter confirmed this in his very first public sermon at Jerusalem Acts 2: 14 – 21. It is obvious that the gift of dreaming will be poured out again in the Omega Church.

SATANIC DREAMS

Not all dreams are messages from Elohim. There are two other sources of dreams. Some dreams are projections from Satan and his agents designed to either confuse or intimidate the saints. Worse still, some dreams are projections from the enemy which, when naively accepted and confessed by the saints, confer to Satan the legal authority to execute them. It is naïve to accept all dreams as from Elohim and speak of them as such.

SOULISH DREAMS

Some other dreams emanate from the subconscious realm of the human soul. They are functions of the worst fears of the saint or his/her deepest desires that have taken root in the subconscious realm and come up to the fore when one is asleep. Dreaming of a particular person as spouse may not necessarily be from Elohim but could signify lust that penetrated the subconscious mind. Dreaming of an accident may not necessarily be a warning from Elohim. It could be the worst fears that have taken root in the subconscious mind and come up occasionally to haunt one. In Job 3:25, the great man gave us an insight into why he experienced some of the tragedies that befell him: his fears became a magnet to draw tragedy unto himself. Faith and Fear are two magnetic forces of equal strength. What you have strong faith for inevitably gets drawn to you (See Mark 11:22-24.) On the other hand, what you fear most also gets drawn to you except the grace and election of God intervenes.

For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. Job 3:25

And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this

mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.²⁴ Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. Mark 11:22-24

Please do not be quick to voice your dreams as if they were gospel truth. Do not boast either that your dreams always come to pass. Do not use your own lips to condemn yourself to premature death or failure. Dreams which constantly convey a message contrary to the purpose of Elohim for you should be rejected and silenced through the Blood of the Lamb and exercise of spiritual discipline on your path. When you experience such, go before Him in humility and sincerity, confessing and repenting of any sin or deficiency the Holy Spirit may convict you of. Then rise up in faith; resist the devil and reject every carrot he presents. He will flee from you (See James 4:7, 8; 1 Peter 5: 7 – 10.)

As 1 John 4: 1-3 exhorts, we need to try the spirit to discern whether it's from Elohim or not. Dreams from Satan will suggest failure, sickness, and evil. When they speak of “good” things, it is to draw the saints down the path of evil or to displease Elohim. Dreams from Elohim will guide us into destiny fulfillment.

25.) Interpretation of Dreams

Yahshua has no delight in confusing His saints. That is why He put in together to be His living Body and gave to some saints, the special ability to interpret dreams. As the name suggests, this is the ability to put into clearly understood language or explain in detail, the mind of Elohim expressed in dreams. Like the gift of interpretation of tongues, this gift is given for the purpose of clarity. When dreams are correctly interpreted, the meaning is immediately clear and there is great edification. If it is a warning, the people who have the privilege of knowing the mind of Elohim are able to repent and turn to Him. If it is an impending judgement whose time is matured, the interpretation will enable the righteous to flee the wrath to come.

Joseph had great capacity for interpreting dreams. It was in exercise of this gift that he fulfilled his destiny which was first expressed in the dream of his parents and siblings bowing before him.

Daniel was also a man who had the unique gift of interpreting dreams. That became a key factor in his elevation to the Presidency of Babylon and Medo-Persia. Daniel 2 and 4.

26.) **Visions/Trance**

A vision is a vivid portrayal of a present or future event. Elohim used visions in the course of history to communicate with His people and the world. Ezekiel saw a number of visions. The most well-known till date is that of the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel 37: 1 – 14.

Visions are communicated in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit in effect shows vivid images to the spirit of the vessel chosen. The Lord may make it clear or may allow messages to be blurred until the appointed time of manifestation. In Acts 10: 1- 48, we see the way Elohim used visions to minister to Cornelius and Peter alike for the purpose of bringing to pass His counsel concerning the gentiles. The word 'Trance' as used by Pater signifies that the vision came while he was partly awake and partly asleep. His faculties were awake but the active part of his being was his spirit man (Acts 10: 9 – 20).

The Book of Revelation is essentially a vision Yahshua communicated to His Church through John the beloved. Revelations 1: 1 – 20. Like other revelatory gifts, visions/trance, dreaming of dreams and interpretation depend substantially on the state of heart and mind of the vessel. Unto the pure, all things are pure. But unto the defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure but their mind and consciences are defiled. Titus 1: 15, 16. If the heart and mind of a saint is pure, the Lord will find it a suitable channel for communicating His truths. A defiled heart and mind will also attract satanic or soulish messages. Where Elohim decides to use His saint to convey a negative message, He will do it with such clarity that those whose lives are not right will have the opportunity to make things right with Him.

27- 31) The Fivefold office gifts/leadership functions in Ephesians 4:11: **Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers** will be fully

discussed in another course by that title. These are the gifts which Holy Spirit uses to enable saints to discover and walk in their gifts so that the Church operates as a living, loving organism, not a dry religious organization.

The 26 gifts listed here may not be exhaustive. The principle guiding all however is consistent: they are 'Gifts', not 'Works'. They are to be received in humility and exercised graciously, in love. Please feel free to discover and utilize yours with great diligence. They shall be accounted for on the Last day as Matthew 25:14- 28; Luke 19:11-27 clearly reveal.

CHAPTER 6

PRINCIPLES GOVERNING OPERATION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

In this chapter, we receive some further insights into the way spiritual gifts are ordained to make the Church a living, loving organism rather than a dry religious organization.

UNITY/INTERDEPENDENCE

Spiritual gifts reveal the spiritual nature of the Church as the very Body of Yahshua, Jesus with Him as the Head. The Body is one in which He has deliberately distributed the gifts in such a way that no saint or congregation has all of Him. The idea is to establish our oneness and unity in diversity. The whole of **1 Corinthians chapter 12** is such a beautiful expression of the mind of Yahweh on the subject matter.

Since no one has all the gifts, we are faced with a situation where we ought to recognize our strengths, accept our limitations and appreciate the gifts/strengths of other brethren. It is in this way that by a divine formula, the strength or special ability of each vessel makes up the lack of others and vice versa as we are held together by the bond of love. Through this process, the whole Body makes increase of itself in love (See Ephesians 4:16.) This scenario makes 1 Corinthians 3: 1 – 9 very clear. We can only do what is given to us. Someone has to break the ground, another plant while another waters so that Elohim alone can give the increase and get all the glory.

ONE BODY, MANY PARTS: DIGGING DEEPER INTO THE ESSENCE OF THE BODY: 1 CORINTHIANS 12

The operation of Spiritual gifts is illustrated with the human body - which though one - yet comprises various functional parts. The Kingdom of Elohim on earth is not to be communicated in mere words. It is to be manifested in functional power.

For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. 1 Corinthians 4:20

That functional power is the demonstration of the Holy Spirit in and through the saints.

1 Corinthians 12: 12 – 27 make it clear that the present dispensation of the Kingdom *is* structured to be an organic reality with every part functioning to impact others and make the whole come alive.

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

***Commentary:** Until saints understand this principle, they will be playing church though filled with Holy Spirit. To accept the reality that by ONE SPIRIT, we are baptized into ONE BODY is a humbling truth which is a game changer any day it is caught, taught and lived out. This realization should challenge saints to relinquish our selfish-centered proclivities. It will open us to realize that no matter how gifted, we are but functional parts of an organic whole. If families, Kingdom communities (the real description of local assemblies) and indeed networks will catch and run with this vision, all negative impulses and actions such as jealousy, envy, evil speaking, back biting, caucuses/parties based on race, ethnicity, gender, age; rebellion against authorities; authorities putting down those whose ways displease them; neglecting of other gifts will be swept into the dust bin of religion so that Holy Spirit will use each saint to complete the others.

15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? 18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. 19 And if they were all one member, where were the body? 20 But now are they many members, yet but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. 1 Corinthians 12:15-21

***Commentary:** It is critical to walk in the understanding that Elohim sets saints into the organic Body of Yahshua as it pleased Him. All of us are who we are by Election, decided before foundation of the world. It is naivety of immaturity of the highest order for a saint to see him or herself as so sufficient that there is not a deep heartfelt realization of how much we need others. In any case, our self-focused tendencies are just that: illusory. No matter how any saint thinks he or she is complete, the reality from a heavenly perspective is that such thoughts are vain.

22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked. 1 Corinthians 12:22-24

***Commentary:** Because we are one, the word enjoins us to pay more attention to those parts of the Body which from the human perspective seem disadvantaged. What this means is that those brethren who seem outwardly to be less gifted should receive more attention and support from both leadership and other saints. Ultimately, no part of the Body should be rated as weaker or less important. In the economy of the Kingdom, the more a part of the Body seems weak and obscure, the more it has the potential of holding the ace for keeping the whole body functioning optimally. If only we will take time to invest in the spiritual development of such brethren, they may be equipped to come out of their shells and low self-esteem to release that which may be buried deep within their spirit-man.

25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. 1 Corinthians 12:25-27

***Commentary:** The Body is one and be no room for divisions. Whatever we think, say and do must flow in the direction of organic unity if truly we are operating by the pure Holy Spirit, without soulish interference. We should be so connected spiritually, emotionally and physically that whatever ails a brother or sister should ail all while what brings joy and honor to one should likewise affect others. This principle was also espoused in **Romans 12:15 (KJV) 15Rejoice** with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after those miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:28

***Commentary:** Here Paul lays the foundation of the awesome truth that was amplified in Ephesians 4: 11-16. It is the reality that Elohim, in the exercise of His Sovereign will consciously set in the same Body of Yahshua, some specific gifts whose primary purpose is to equip other parts of the Body to function optimally.

Not leaving anything to chance or human imagination, Holy Spirit then reveals that much as there is liberty for all gifts to operate as He moves or

quickens them, there is also divine order that reflects the Kingdom. That divine order reveals that, concerning equipping saints for work of ministry, Apostles are placed in the first place followed by Prophets and Teachers. The other members of the fivefold – Evangelists and Pastors are not specifically mentioned here.

THREE POSSIBLE PERSPECTIVES FOR OMISSION OF EVANGELISTS AND PASTORS IN 1 CORINTHIANS 12:28-29

There are three ways of looking at this omission of their functional offices. The first is that Paul was not exhaustive in any particular scripture and to get the full picture, we need to proceed to Ephesians 4:11.

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; Ephesians 4:11

The second explanation of the omission is that though their office gifts were not mentioned, Paul cited their functional gift. For the Evangelist, the functionality of working of miracles and gifts of healings are mentioned. For the office of Pastor, the core gifts which enable them to fulfil the Pastoral office are listed as Helps (which enables them to come alongside saints to nurture them into destiny) and Governments (which enables them to lead saints in love and with sincerity into their destinies in Yahshua).

Another perspective of the omission was that Paul was also bringing forward certain gifts that saints may be tempted to neglect when discussing leadership of the Body. In that case, He was including these gifts as critical resources which are divinely given for the benefit of equipping and imparting all other members of the Body to excel: Working of Miracles; Healings; Helps; Governments; Diversities of Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues.

2Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way. 1 Corinthians 12:29-31

***Commentary:** In rounding up this epic scripture, Paul is used by Holy Spirit to make the clear case that leaders and saints should accept who they are made to be and do what they are equipped to release to the Body. Those who are not called to the fivefold should not make themselves what they are not.

In the same way, both within the fivefold and outside it, saints should be content with releasing the gifts sovereignty bestowed on them. There is no basis for any leader or saint to feel unfulfilled because he or she is not given the highly charismatic gifts of working miracles or healings; communicating the mind of the Father in Tongues or interpretation of Tongues. There is just no basis for any saint or leader to feel inferior or deem his/her ministry as unfulfilled because a particular gift, which draws attention, is not in the gift mix.

In closing, let us review a part of the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians which bring clarity to the subject matter also.

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,² With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;³ Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.⁴ There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;⁵ One Lord, one faith, one baptism,⁶ One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. ⁷ But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.⁸ Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.⁹ (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?¹⁰ He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: ¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ ¹⁶ From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working

*in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto
the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:1-16*

CHAPTER 7

WAYS TO DISCOVER SPIRITUAL GIFTS

One of the pervasive influences of Western Culture on modern saints is the negation of core principles of Scripture and culture of the Kingdom. Western life is based on the model that anyone with sufficient education and ambition can succeed in whatever they desire. Consequently, many saints have joined the rush to various cities in search of the elusive ‘golden fleece’ without true recourse to the will of Elohim.

In the same vein, many saints are venturing into various facets of ministry and businesses based on their self-will and ambition. As we have learnt variously from scripture, not all things we claim to ‘do for God’ are acceptable to Him. As these scriptures affirm, a day is coming when the motive and substances with which we built in ministry – whether in the pulpit or market place – will be tried by the fire of Elohim.

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.¹¹ For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.¹⁴ If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.¹⁵ If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:10

It is certainly wrong for a saint to carry on in life without these vital equipment:

- **Spiritual gifts and other virtues that make up their spiritual DNA.**
- **Inability to hear the voice of the Great Shepherd and King, Jesus and taking major or even minor decisions of life outside the Father's will.**
- **Understanding of whether it is the perfect will of Elohim to proceed into specific businesses and ministries.**
- **Vision of what Elohim created, redeemed and preserved their lives to be and to do**
- **Specific locations – including local congregations, ministries, cities - where Yahweh planted them specifically to prosper in a holistic fashion**
- **Vessels assigned to you as Destiny Helpers.**

If any of these things describe your state, please pause from many activities this season and wait on the Lord to show you the way He ordained.

Saints are not like other human beings. Each saint is a product of an intelligent design in creation and redemption. Elohim created all saints, redeemed by the precious Blood of Yahshua to fulfil specific assignments on earth which represent their callings. Jeremiah 1:5; Jeremiah 29:11. Paul was very successful because he had a very clear understanding of the Divine purpose and he recounted same with passion throughout life – both before brethren as well as rulers.

But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. Acts 9:15-16

Unbelievers live in rebellion allowing their flesh and ambitions to drive their lives according to what the Prince of the Power of the air dictates. Most often they achieve their ambitions, driven by unleashing the potent latent powers of the soul. The Prince of this world uses their ambitions to drive them deeper into love of the world as a means to trap them further into his kingdom. 1 John 2:15-17 and 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 show why saints cannot pursue same goals with same tools of the flesh as those who rejected Yahshua.

Those who are delivered from the hand of Satan come under the sovereignty of Elohim. As they are translated into His family, they receive the power to become His sons as John 1;12 says. With that power comes the connection to Yahshua, Jesus who is Head of The Body. His Body, the Church is not a religious organization but a living spiritual organism comprising various body parts and cells which are empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfil the exact purpose for which they were made part of. It is therefore imperative that saints die to self so that they can truly walk in the Spirit and be led by Him in all things.

Let us see how two of the most neglected portions of scripture paint a vivid picture of the sharp contrast of lives of people led by the flesh from those led by the Holy Spirit:

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. Romans 8:5-14

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. Galatians 5:16-17

Holy Spirit does not strive with mortals when they insist in walking after the flesh which leads to His being grieved or even quenched (See 1 Thessalonians 5: 19.)

Through proper teaching and equipping, each saint is challenged to understand this paradigm and walk in it. We should grow to the point where we no longer go about life driven by fleshly ambitions to ‘succeed’ according to Babylonian definitions or values but rather we are consumed with the vision of Elohim who graciously grafted us into the Body of Yahshua by Holy Spirit and translated us into His Kingdom. We yearn for true success which is to be vessels through who Holy Spirit will accomplish the Divine purpose in full.

Our highest expression of true worship therefore goes further than singing songs to a lifestyle of knowing and doing His will and cooperating with the Holy Spirit at work in us to be exactly who Elohim created and redeemed us to be. True worship ascends to the heavens when our lives give Him glory because everything we think, say and do bring Him glory, being in His perfect will.

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. Revelation 4:11

With this attitude comes a paradigm shift where one of the greatest endeavors of saints becomes to discover and exercise spiritual gifts which define their identity and empower their witness. It was in this light that Yahshua, Jesus charged His saints to lay aside pursuit of material things and fleshly satisfaction to seek first the Kingdom and its righteousness. Matthew 6:19-34. Spiritual Gifts can be discovered in a number of ways. These include:

- 1. Self-evident manifestation.** Here, the gifts are clearly manifested to the degree that is unquestionable. A saint with the gift of prophecy will manifest utterances which bring edification, encouragement and comfort. One with the word of wisdom will be used of the Lord to bring forth solutions to tough problems. One with the gift of helps will take his/her place graciously beside and with a visionary, leader or other saints,

helping them to succeed into destiny. A true Pastor will be gifted with the ability to care for the flock of Yahshua, Jesus and have compassion to drive his/her ministry. Every single ministry or function in the Kingdom should be grounded on a dominant spiritual gift. It is important to know that the self-evident gift will be confirmed by The Body who is recipient of the Grace of Yahshua, Jesus at work in you. This curtails the dangerous “name it and claim it” tendency. If you claim to have the gift of healing yet no saint is healed by your laying on of hands you are engaged in a fantasy ride. If you claim to be a Prophet yet no word you release ever comes to pass, there may be need to re-evaluate yourself.

The Word is very clear that all saints have been graciously endowed with spiritual gifts. The question therefore is: have you known the gifts you were given?

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.⁸ Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. Ephesians 4:7

If you have any gift, your life is enhanced by releasing your vessel to Holy Spirit to bring them forth into self-evident manifestation.

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.¹¹ If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10-11

To hoard your spiritual gifts is to cheat yourself, deny other saints their portion of what Yahshua procured for them and negate your capacity to occupy, until He comes.

And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.¹² He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.¹³ And he called his ten

servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. Luke 19:11-13

2. **Knowledge.** Spiritual gifts can best be understood and utilized when there is knowledge. 1 Corinthians chapter 12 and Romans chapter 12 were written to provide knowledge to ignorant saints. Spiritual gifts often flourish where there is sufficient light cast on the subject matter. The truth sets free when it is known. John 8:32, 36. Gifts can therefore be dormant where there is ignorance. Apollos and the saints at Ephesus did not know of the Holy Spirit and evidently spiritual gifts until Priscilla and Aquila and later Paul taught them and led them into the blessed experience (See Acts 18:24-28; Acts 19:1-7.)

3. **Prayer.** Earnest prayer will lead the saint to receive from Elohim, revelation and manifestation of spiritual gifts given. Matthew 7: 7-9. It is so sad that saints can bombard heaven with prayers and fasting concerning getting material blessings yet few ever pray with such intensity when it comes to spiritual things. The rule in Matthew 6:19-34 can never be negated: make the Kingdom of God and its righteousness your priority in prayer and Elohim will definitely answer you by showing you the gifts and callings for which you were redeemed which are already in you.

4. **Opportunities.** Spiritual gifts manifest when the saint is faced with situations or opportunities where natural abilities fail to deliver. Opportunities have a way of drawing out to the fore what was hidden previously. Philip was content serving as a deacon in the Church at Jerusalem. When persecution drove him to Samaria, the opportunities presented by a dark, unreached environment drew out the Evangelist in him. The spiritual gift was already in him when he was in Jerusalem. However, the presence of the highly rated 12 Apostles limited opportunity for fivefold ministry and he was found fit to serve tables. At Samaria, the opportunities for manifestation were limitless. In

any case, the thirsty people in Samaria basically “pulled” on the gift that was within and heaven responded. The transitioning or shift occurred and Phillip thereafter flowed freely in the office gift of Evangelist. By leading the Ethiopian Eunuch to Yahshua, Jesus, the two outermost dispensations of Acts 1:8 “Samaria” and “uttermost parts of the world” were fulfilled by one who was initially serving tables with the gift of helps.

- 5. Impartation/Laying on of hands.** Just as the Holy Spirit is imparted by laying on of hands, so can spiritual gifts that are dormant can be activated when senior ministers who are well endowed with grace and capacity lay hands to pray. Paul told Timothy not to neglect the spiritual gifts he received when hands were laid on him.

Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

- 6. Stirring Up.** Gifts may remain dormant or under-utilized if not stirred continuously. Stirring is best by ministry or action. As we release ourselves when prompted by Holy Spirit to minister to others, the gifts are stirred up. As we stay in His Presence in prayer and exercise faith in His word, there is also a stirring of the gifts within.

2 Timothy 1:6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. 1 Timothy 4:14

It is Elohim who imparts the gifts by the Holy Spirit. But activation happens through the laying on of hands.

- 7. Prophecy/Revelatory gifts.** 1 Timothy 4:14 also suggests that a spiritual gift can be discerned through prophecy. If a prophetic utterance you receive is from the Lord and is true, there will be a resonance in your spirit and a stirring up of what was dormant. Spiritual gifts can be “seen” through the revelatory gifts of discernment, Word of Knowledge, Dreams, and Visions
- 8. Sovereign Pattern of Elohim.** He is at liberty to reveal the gift He has blessed you with according to the way He communicates

to you. As our personalities and attitudes vary, so will our heavenly Father speak to us in various ways? The key is that His sheep shall hear His voice. John 10: 27. As an individual, cultivate a close relationship with your Father so that you can hear Him clearly.

Please also utilize the tools outlined in a previous lesson to know the gifts at work in you.

SPIRITUAL GIFT AUDIT

It is important to engage in spiritual gift audit from time to time to determine what Yahshua has blessed you with. Take these scriptures and wait on the Lord to show you who you truly are in the Kingdom: Romans 12:1-8 (The Basic or Root Gifts); 1 Corinthians 12 (The enabling Gifts); Ephesians 4:11(The Fivefold Office gifts); Ephesians 4:7; 1 Peter 4:10, 11(The command for all to manifest their gifts). Read again the sections of this course dealing with the 31 spiritual gifts and ask the Father who He has made you to be in Christ. He will answer.

- **What do spiritual gifts say of the ministry the Lord call us to. In other words, what is the co-relation between spiritual gifts and ministry?**

The Lord ordained that spiritual gifts are the prime avenues for demonstrating the power of the Kingdom. The Kingdom is not to be presented in mere words of man's wisdom but in the demonstration of the Holy Spirit and power. This is why spiritual gifts are called manifestations of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11. Of all that it takes to engage in ministry therefore, Spiritual Gifts received and manifested are the clearest indicators of divine calling and approval.

- **What are the dangers of operating outside our spiritual gifts?**

Whenever a saint operates outside his/her spiritual gifts, any of these outcomes can be expected:

1. One is engaged in dead works. Dead religious works refer to all activities that are not rooted in or derive validity from what Elohim designed to accomplish in the earth realm through the saint. This is the very basis of orthodoxy and Babylonian themed ‘Christianity’. All saints who accept titles but are not called by Elohim are endangering their souls in eternity and inviting trouble on earth.

2. The saint operating outside spiritual gifts is open to slide into the flesh. “Flesh” refers to activities that are not inspired by or empowered by the Holy Spirit. They rather emanate from the realm of the human soul which is the seat of reasoning (the mind); exercise of the will and the emotion. The soul strives against both the Holy Spirit and human spirit. Galatians 5: 16 - 21

3. The saint is open to manipulation by the devil because one has exceeded the limits of the divinely ordained platform of service. Saints can be smitten by the enemy for so doing because they have strayed outside the perimeter of service approved by heaven.

CHAPTER 8

16 PRINCIPLES FOR UTILIZATION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS PART 1

As we begin to go down the wire on the issue of Spiritual Gifts, it may be necessary to revisit some of the things shared in different parts of Lessons 1-8. Our understanding is enhanced when we hear somethings again and when some related information is put together into a single section.

*Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.
Philippians 3:1*

There are some clear spiritual principles that dictate how spiritual gifts are to be utilized and why it should be so:

1. Romans 12: 1 – The first principle is that of death to self and total consecration to Elohim. Those who obey Him and lay their selves and ambitions at the altar of sacrifice make themselves reliable vessels Holy Spirit can use to express Himself and bless other saints and impact the animate and inanimate world within their spheres of influence.

2. Romans 12: 2 – It takes renewal of the mind to understand and appreciate the things of the Spirit. The spirit of religion and religiosity on the one hand and the spirit of modernity which the pseudo-kingdom movement offers blind people from receiving the things of the Spirit of Elohim.

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.13 Which things also we speak, not in the words

which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

3. Spiritual gifts are exercised better in sobriety when every once accepts and stays in the lane Elohim placed them, doing what He ordained, not what we fancy. Saints lose nothing but rather gain all when they accept their limitations and joyfully receive ministry from other saints. Holy Spirit has ordained and endowed with gifts different from ours.

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. Romans 12:3

4. To know and utilize the spiritual gifts, the saints must know and understand the word of Elohim. The Word is Constitution of the Kingdom and should be well taught so that all saints can walk in its Light. It is in the abiding of the Word that saints are secure and productive, able to pray rightly and receive answers from their heavenly Father.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.⁶ If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. John 15:4-7

Ignorance of the Word will cause saints to walk in darkness, confusion and disorder. In this environment, satanic invasion of the ministry can occur. The atmosphere is also ripe for those who have backslidden to hide under their gifts and use same to manipulate, control and fleece the flock.

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. James 3: 16

The Four unacceptable relationship modes – Stranger; Unwilling slave; Orphan and Babe are nurtured in spiritual environments where saints do not

know or understand the Word. What follows is that Church becomes theatre where Christians gather to watch live performances of preachers who give them enough “religious fixes” to keep them hooked but which are unable to empower them to manifest King Yahshua as ambassadors of His Kingdom.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

5. 1 Corinthians 12:1-13. Knowing The Holy Spirit, **Communion with the Holy Spirit, yieldedness to Him** and creating an enabling environment for Him to play His appointed role as Elohim with us in the Now is vital for spiritual gifts to be received and utilized. In the present dimension of The Kingdom, The Holy Spirit is the instrument for engrafting us into the Body of Yahshua, imparting spiritual gifts and empowering our witness.

6. 1 Corinthians 12: 3. Spiritual gifts must be used in a way which honors Yahshua as Head of the Church. The gifts declare the Church to be indeed supernatural and His Body. The Body must honor its head. Any activity or attitude which is not Yahshua honoring will negate the value and import of spiritual gifts. Any so called miracle working ability or indeed any supposed Charismatic manifestation which draws people away from Yahshua and point them to the human vessel to say and do his/her bidding is inherently standing on a faulty foundation.

Self-Projection can be Charismatic witchcraft by other means, especially when human images are aggressively projected into the psyche of other saints. That is why it is wrong to constantly employ strong language and visuals which hype up or promote human vessels when advertising supposed Kingdom events and meetings and reduce Yahshua, Jesus to small prints or none at all. In that case the people are being drawn to the human and often can remain addicted to their persons and voices, unable to receive from other vessels. With promotional strategies of Babylon , human idols can be created, competing for attention with King Yahshua. When this is so, humans attract followers who idolize them as dispensers of the “anointing.” This is the basis of modern denominations which divide the Body. This does not mean we should not advertise meetings and events. It is just that determined effort should be made to promote Yahshua for people

to be drawn to Him and believe on His Name rather than the minister or ministry.

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. John 12:32

In the same way, any doctrine or teaching which depreciates the centrality of Yahshua, Jesus in the Kingdom agenda is inherently standing on a faulty foundation. This is why the leaven of the pseudo-kingdom movement needs to be understood as dangerous to the extreme. Without any equivocation, Yahshua is the Centre and Circumference of the Kingdom to His saints.

Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. 1 Corinthians 12:3

7. Spiritual Gifts are to be used within the context of unity of the Body and interdependence of saints. Spiritual gifts are given for the profit of all, not the self-exaltation of a particular vessel whom Holy Spirit chooses to use in a peculiar way. Congregational meetings of living saints are supposed to reflect unity in diversity as various gifts are expressed by different vessels.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 1 Corinthians 12:7

*But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. **12**For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:11-12*

The Church is not a dry religious organization but a spiritual organism comprising various functional parts each of which needs the other. Every meeting of saints or interaction in the realm of the spirit or physically must be based on the principle of releasing and receiving grace and enablement from each other. When we do so, the Body makes increase of itself in love and therefore healthy and powerful, able to fulfil the redemptive purpose of The Kingdom Church in our environments.

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:16From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:15-16

When this principle is not practiced, saints will gather unto human vessels who, by enjoying the limelight, soon forget that they are merely called to serve. Before long, hero worship, the deadly virus borrowed from Hollywood emerges and with it party spirit where saints line up behind their preferred ‘great men and women of God’

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.7 So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. 18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.20 And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.21 Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are your's;22 Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are your's;23 And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's. 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

8. 1 Corinthians 12: 12-26 Spiritual gifts are at their functional best when there is proper safeguard for the vulnerable and “weak” in the Body. Leaders must invest in training saints on their spiritual gifts and also ensure that those whose gifts are more “prominent” do not intimidate and silence those with seemingly “less prominent” yet necessary gifts.

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 13For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 14For the body is not one member, but many. 15If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 16And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 17If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? 18But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. 19And if they were all one member, where were the body? 20But now are they many members, yet but one body. 21And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. 22Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: 23And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. 24For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked. 25That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 26And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

9. According to 1 Corinthians 13, spiritual gifts must be exercised in love. Love must be enthroned as the prime motive for all that we do. If the gifts are not exercised in love, a door is open to self and Satan with no reward on the Last Day.

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2And 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, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. 4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in

iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.8Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3,8-10

CHAPTER 9

16 PRINCIPLES FOR UTILIZATION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS-PART 2

Let us continue to examine the principles for utilization of spiritual gifts for optimum effect in the Church.

First Corinthians chapter 14: 1-33 was written to guide the Church to ensure that the gifts are exercised in order. Order enables us to enjoy our liberty in the spirit. Order requires sensitivity to other people and their gifts. Order requires the saints to be under authority because operating as loose cannon destroys fellowship. Order requires that no gift be used in a way which is self-projecting. If many Pentecostal ministries ever gave attention to this critical chapter of the Bible, most of the nuisance both unbelievers and young believers complain about would not be valid. This chapter sets in order how the gift of tongues should be used and how Prophecy is far superior.

Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. 2For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. 3But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation and comfort. 4He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesyeth edifieth the church. 5 I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying. 6Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine? 7And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? 8For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? 9So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air. 10There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without

signification. 11Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me. 12Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. 13Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. 14For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. 15What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. 16Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? 17For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified. 18I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: 19Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. 20Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. 21In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. 22Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. 23If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? 24But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: 25And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth. 26How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. 27If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. 28But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. 29Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. 30If anything be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. 31For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. 32And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. 33For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. 1 Corinthians 14:1-33

COMMENTARY ON 1 CORINTHIANS 14

Let us break down 1 Corinthians Chapter 14: 1-33 into 3 distinct parts:

A. Prophecy is far superior to speaking in tongues where there is no interpreter.

- Saints should earnestly covet the release of Spirit of Prophecy in congregational meetings. The reason is that when Prophetic utterances come forth, there is an injection of the mind of Yahweh into gatherings of saints. This brings Edification, Exhortation and Comfort – three sorely needed ingredients. Verses 1-3
- Even in exercising of the gift of prophecy, those gifted should be dead to self, desiring no vain glory. When this is so, they can exercise Spirit-led order and preference for one another, driven by need to please Elohim and the blessing of the Congregation. Verses 29-33.
- More sinners would be impacted and drawn to Yahshua if local congregations come alive with release of the prophetic. They will hear of themselves in ways that bring conviction and change. Verse 24

B. There are 5 Core Principles for exercising the gift of speaking in tongues within congregations/fellowship

Yahweh gave clear direction to the Church in 1 Corinthians chapter 14 especially verses 1-28 concerning how this potentially divisive gift should be exercised to avoid abuse and bring edification. The principles are as follows:

- Communicating messages from Elohim should not be turned into fleshly activity full of competition, strife and seeking for attention.
- Prophecy, which communicates the mind of Elohim with clarity is of far higher value to the congregation of the redeemed than utterance in tongues. Our Father is not the author of confusion and will not seek to keep His saints guessing what He is saying.

- If one has to speak in tongues in a public meeting, it can only be if Holy Spirit, who is to give the message, has already planted another person with the gift of interpreting tongues therein. The only exception is if the messenger also has the gift of interpretation. Without a person gifted to interpret, such a message should not be uttered or received. This section is different speaking from praying or worshipping in the Spirit. It speaks of any assumed communication of the mind of Elohim to saints that are uttered in tongues from the pulpit.
- If two or more people claim to have received messages to be given in tongues, they will prove their qualification by taking turns to release the message with no striving or competitive spirit since the congregation needs to hear and know all that Holy Spirit is releasing.

In 1 Corinthians 12: 23, the Church is warned that ignoring these principles will show the saints in poor light before their unbelieving neighbors and the gospel program will be reproached. This is true of typical Pentecostal and Charismatic meetings world-wide. In Africa, many churches tune up their loud speakers and unbelievers passing by often wonder whether they are near mad houses.

The purpose of these principles are to prevent situations where malefactors functioning with the spirit of divination or other demonic influences place curses on ignorant saints who sheepishly echo 'amen' in excitement thinking that tongues signify the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Maturity or otherwise of a congregation is often indexed in their ability to exercise spiritual gifts in a sense of liberty and yet order.

Let us restate again that while everybody in fellowship is free to pray and praise in tongues while worshipping, it is wrong for the persons on the podium to try to project a higher spirituality by 'communicating' with others through tongues. This bare face abuse of a vital spiritual gift speaks volumes of the contempt with which many people hold Yahshua, even in His supposed house.

C. The need for edification of all should trump all other considerations when the issue of exercise of spiritual gifts is considered. Disunity, competition, strife and disorder chip away at edification and the net effect is confusion.

In such instances, people cling to what they think and want leaving the Body lacerated. That is what verse 26 says: “How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.”

11. In any assembly of saints, spiritual gifts will manifest best when the divine order is recognized and accepted. Saints do not engage in unnecessary bickering or desire for attention. Without struggles, saints need to give right of way to those Yahshua Himself has set in order as leading gifts. The order is described clearly. The Church is blessed whenever there is respect and honor for those set in leadership by Yahweh. Those who are self-effacing, gentle and quiet should not be disregarded and abused by those who have multiple or charismatic gifts.

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after those miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? 1 Corinthians 12:28-29

12. Gifts should be stirred up from time to time – through prayer, constant usage and going forth in faith. It is by going forth to use spiritual gifts in service of Yahshua as obedient participants in the Great Commission that the Holy Spirit stirs them up and uses them to confirm that we are indeed “sent” people.

Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. 2 Timothy 1:6

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. 19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. 20 And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the

Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen. Mark 16:15-20

13. To truly flow in the gifts of Holy Spirit, saints need to embrace Him as Sovereign and be open to all dimensions of His work as proclaimed in the word. It is very disingenuous to seek Power of Holy Spirit to do signs and wonders without desire with equal passion, the fruit of the same Holy Spirit which will produce the character to contain and handle the anointing. It is equally wrong to seek any of those two dimensions of Holy Spirit without giving Him space to inspire and lead us to walk in unity with other saints and congregations so that the Organic Body of Yahshua manifests and demonstrates Him and His Kingdom.

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,² With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;³ Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.⁴ There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;⁵ One Lord, one faith, one baptism,⁶ One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Ephesians 4:1-6

14. In the last Days, saints will come into the fuller knowledge that the Kingdom economy which guarantees holistic wellbeing of all saints is subverted when some saints are not activated in the gifts of Holy Spirit.

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.¹³ For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.¹⁴ For the body is not one member, but many.¹⁵ If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?¹⁶ And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? ¹⁸ But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.¹⁹ And if they were all one member, where were the body?²⁰ But now are they many members, yet but one body.²¹ And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need

of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you²² Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:²³ And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.²⁴ For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked ²⁵ That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.²⁶ And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.²⁷ Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

The inability to discern the Church as One Body of Yahshua is partly responsible for the disagreements, jealousies, envies, strife and divisions which impact negatively on saints who eat the Body and drink His Blood unworthily. Some of the things like sicknesses, closed heavens, poverty and inexplicable troubles like premature deaths which saints suffer in various parts of the world may happen because the Church in the Community, City, State, Nation and world has been engineered by Babylon not to come into functional alignment.

Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.²⁹ For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.³⁰ For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.³² But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. 1 Corinthians 11: 27-32

15. The intensity of what Holy Spirit will be releasing in the Word and by revelatory gifts concerning the organic nature of the Church as a living loving organism will cause a shift of mindsets within leadership of the Body. There are many leaders who are in error not because they want to disobey Yahshua or subvert His redemptive purpose for the Body. They do what they do out of ignorance because that is all they know how to do. Some learnt these things from Bible Colleges or Pastors they served under. Such people will be arrested by Holy Spirit through various ways to come into

knowledge of truth. Humbling themselves, they will acknowledge errors of their past organizational styles which led them to build denominations centered on their persons and gifting. In

their recovery, they will go all out to implement the revelations of the Body with great zeal and total commitment.

Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old. Matthew 13:52

16. In the Omega Church, saints shall discern those in leadership by the degree to which they embrace the whole counsel of Elohim which leads to empowerment of the whole Body rather than spiritual elevation of just those in authority to rule over ignorant consumers of their 'anointing'. When this begins to happen, those who refuse to empower the flock will be left to lead those who willingly desire to be deceived.

Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:2 Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied. 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. Jude 1:1-6

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. 2 Peter 2 -3

CHAPTER 10

EPILOGUE ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND THE KINGDOM CHURCH

In this chapter, we will bring to a close this course on Spiritual Gifts and the Kingdom Church by examining a number of issues.

1. Liberty and Order. These are powerful principles in the Kingdom when rightly understood and practiced. For that reason, we must make sure that the spiritual gifts are not quenched but rather they all come forth for the edification and blessing of all and sundry. We need to hear whatever our Father wants to tell us through both the gift of Prophecy and the gift of communicating with Tongues.

Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.⁴⁰ Let all things be done decently and in order. 1 Corinthians 14: 39-40

2. That we know no man after the flesh: debunking the Nimrodic and Levithical war against womanhood. When spiritual gifts are embraced as the sure foundation of true Kingdom ministry, our ages, races, ethnic groups, gender and socio-economic status do not matter. Paul says we should come to the point when we know no man after the flesh. With spiritual gifts, we know people according to what Elohim has made them to be; what He wants to use them for in His Kingdom and receive them as such.

Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. 2Corinthians5:16

In doing so, no one will ask if a saint ministering is a man or woman. The reason is that Holy Spirit is imparted into and received in the realm of the human spirit. It is also from this realm that spiritual gifts flow out to touch others.

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.³⁸ He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.³⁹ (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified. John 7:37-39

Since the beginning of time, Satan has been in an unending war against womanhood. In this, he finds great allies in religion and religious leaders. In the Nimrodic priesthood, strength is might and ministry is for strong men who use women as sex objects and cash cows. In the Levitical order, the priesthood is an exclusive male clergy caste to minister to a dormant laity (of mainly passive women). To distinguish themselves from the laity, the clergy needs special robes and is trained in how to handle certain rites in services. With this mindset, they find it difficult to see women as fit for ministry. Such people, who would discriminate against women and have them out of ministry because of their gender essentially are held captive by this concept of Church as a religious organization people join; who go to ‘church’ on certain days of the week or year to obtain ablution for their sins and quieten their consciences. For them, one of the proof scripture is this passage in 1 Corinthians 14:

Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law.³⁵ And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church. 1 Corinthians 14:34-35

Scripture must be rightly divided in order to understand the mind of Elohim. The instructions for women to keep quiet in church were for the purpose of dealing with peculiar situations which arose in first century congregations. In those days, women were more or less house hold chattel. Those who gave their lives to Yahshua were experiencing a degree of freedom and liberty that was unimaginable during their years in Judaism. Some women evidently misused that scope of liberty and literally interrupted preachers in public worship services to express their differing opinions or utter “tongues” or “prophecies” in ways that were totally out of order, disruptive and disrespectful to congregational leadership. They were

commanded to keep quiet and submit to the knowledge of their husbands at home.

The overall thrust of the revelations granted to Paul in 1 Corinthians chapter 12; Romans Chapter 12 and Ephesians chapter 4:1-16 essentially amplify and explain what Peter said of the Royal Priesthood in 1 Peter 2: 9-12. The Royal Priesthood after the Order of Melchizedek - which Yahshua Himself inaugurated and modelled - is about ministering by the Spirit from the realm of the spirit-man. The spirit-man of saints, where Holy Spirit resides and from where He manifests or 'shows up' the spiritual gifts is neither male nor female.

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.²⁷ For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.²⁹ And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:26-29

It is important that as we walk with the Father in and by Holy Spirit, we do not give room for the Flesh (Soul + Bodily realms) to overtake us. This is the bane of many Pentecostal ministries. That tendency did not start today as Paul the apostle experienced in Galatia

*Are ye so foolish? having **begun in the Spirit**, are ye now made perfect by **the flesh**? Galatians 3:3*

3. Let us ask the question: Is the presence and exercise of spiritual gifts sufficient basis for success in ministry? If not, what are the essentials needful to fulfil ministry? The answer is clearly no. There are some other factors which combine with spiritual gifts to equip saints to be all that Elohim ordained them to be and accomplish all they were brought into this world for. Collectively, these factors make up what is called the Spiritual DNA of saints. This is a mix of factors which combine to make each saint unique in the Divine family and in the general society. They include Fruit of the Spirit, Natural Talents, Personality, Education/Training; Skills acquired; attitude to life. A full teaching on these factors will be provided in the course “**Discover and Fulfil your ministry**”

4. Judgement Day is real. There is a day of judgement coming for those in Yahshua Jesus. It is the day He will take account for how saints used the spiritual gifts they were endowed with to occupy until He returns. Various parables of Jesus clearly spell out this reality.

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.11 And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. 18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin:21 For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?24 And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.25 (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)26 For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.27 But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me. Luke 19:10-27

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:10

Those who sit on their gifts waiting for the day Yahshua will return are doing themselves a great disservice. They are clearly unfaithful. Those who in the name of the Kingdom denigrate or devalue the soon return of Yahshua have made themselves Apostates. They are playing into the hands of the wicked one.

The plan of Elohim is to release a measure of the Holy Spirit into and through us to manifest His glory and proclaim His Kingdom in Power. The scriptures we examined in this course: Romans 12: 1- 8; 1 Corinthians 12: 1-28; Ephesians 4: 1-16; 1 Peter 4: 9 – 11 make it clear that that ALL saints in Yahshua, Jesus – His very Body: male and female; young and old - have been blessed with a number of spiritual gifts. As it is, the least any saint has is one spiritual gift which should be discovered and deployed to serve others and the Head.

5. Beware of Abuse/Misuse of the Gifts. As has been said variously in this course, let us beware of one of the leavens of Babylon: using spiritual gifts to achieve fame and to draw people to ourselves as their mediators with Elohim or for the purpose of making money. In this day and age of creative photo shopping of faces in slick commercials, this may be a hard pill to swallow. Who can receive this? Who can purpose to point people to Yahshua, Jesus alone and not to self? The Temptation is real to be puffed up with the spiritual Gifts and callings received in Yahshua, Jesus and turn around to use them to draw people unto ourselves thinking we are “building for Him.”

When people are drawn to fellow humans and the anointing in them, a perversion of epic proportions ensues. Satan blinds the eyes of ministers - especially if they love the Lord from recognizing that it is a coup against His Kingship they are staging.

The outcome of such perversions is that supposed saints hang around their preferred “anointed ones” and idolize to the degree that the Omniscience and Omnipresence of Elohim recedes in memory as the desire to please the human vessel leads to systemic hypocrisy. Before long, there’s

charismatic witchcraft which has its toll on supposed saints as they become spectators around such heroes in pulpits.

The consequence is that instead of growing to live like sons of Elohim who discover and fulfill their Melchizedek priesthoods, they become a mixed multitude of Strangers; Unwilling slaves; Orphans and Babes ever needing milk. They may be ‘awarded titles and church offices’ but are dependent clients of those who manipulate them for personal advantage, unable to rightly divide the word of scripture and empower others.

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.¹³ For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Hebrews 5: 12-14

6. Spiritual Gifts are irrevocable. It is possible to backslide from the truth and the gifts are still in operation.

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. Romans 11:29

This truth has been proved in ministers whose lives have become persistently reproachful yet they “minister powerfully in the Charismatic gifts.” In that case, the very gift given to be a blessing then becomes the basis of a curse:

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Matthew 7: 21-234

That is why as we invest in knowing and manifesting spiritual gifts, we also need to invest in development of the character level received by transformational work of Holy Spirit deep within us.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

The same Holy Spirit who empowers us to be vessels of demonstrating the awesome power of the risen Yahshua, Jesus also wants to change us from inside out.

7. Final Word.

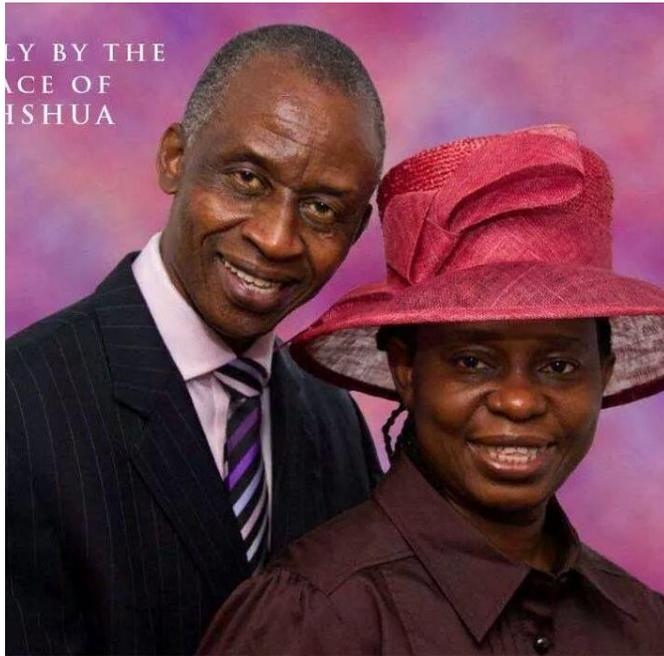
Your spiritual gift is, from a practical point of view, your true Kingdom identity among the +7billion people on earth. It will make a way for you and combine with the Spirit of Favour to guarantee Open Doors and access to any blessing Abba approved for you in this life. To neglect, ignore or not walk in your spiritual gifts is to live a crippled spiritual life. Ultimately, the dead works of religion and politics will fill the void.

A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men. Proverbs 18:16

Power changed hands at Calvary and the Resurrection morning over 2000 years ago. 50 Days later, the Church of Jesus was birthed in Power in the Upper Room on the Day of Pentecost. Proof of your portion in the victory of the Crucified and Risen Yahshua is the measure of the Holy Spirit at work in and through you as spiritual gifts. Refuse to remain a spectator in the Kingdom of Elohim; refuse to come to 'church' to seek, week to week 'anointed men and women of God' who are paid to minister to you while you remain on the pew as part of a dormant 'laity'. Discover your gifts, stir them up constantly as you prayerfully deploy them in everyday life, not just when saints congregate in the building.

Joseph never ministered in a Temple for one day. Yet he walked in his calling and fulfilled it in public service to Pharaoh and the Kingdom of Egypt. Daniel never ministered in a Temple for one day but was fulfilled through the gifts of Holy Spirit which showed up in his vessel in the courts of heathen kings of Babylon and Medo-Persia.

Arise from sleep! Put on the whole armor of God and exercise your spiritual gifts, allowing them to carry you on the wings of grace to soar above the natural realm. Your set time of manifestation is now...As we close out this intensely practical course, the questions that arise are: Who are you in the Spirit? What has Holy Spirit gifted you to be and do?



Apostle George Akalonu is one of the many elect vessels the Lord is using to release His Word to the end time generation of saints. His primary assignment is to teach, train, equip, activate and release saints into ministry to fulfill their priestly obligations in the Kingdom. Under the auspices of the Global School of Ministry, this mandate is being fulfilled in over 110 nations. As International President of International Ministers' Fellowship, Apostle George and His wife, Pastor Grace are responsible for expanding the network across the globe. Since 2013, the Lord has led them to conduct an intense 9 month Masterclass which is under the Global Advanced Mentorship Program. They also oversee the congregation at Arise Metropolitan Assembly in Elm Park, Hornchurch in London Borough of Havering. The couple live in East London with their five children Favor, Elect, Arise, Praise and Destiny.