

Lesson 10: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lesson Introduction



As we come to the third and final lesson in this Unit, we will conclude our study of Pneumatology by looking at the gifts that the Holy Spirit bestows upon the believer. These are gifts that come automatically at the time of salvation, and are not to be sought after by the believer. We will focus on how the believer is to discover what gifts the Spirit has given to him, and how the believer is to utilize those gifts.

Lesson Outline

Topic 1: Helps of the Spirit

Topic 2: Gifts of the Spirit

Seeking Spiritual Gifts

Topic 3: Utilizing Spiritual Gifts

Sign Gifts Have Ceased

Topic 4: Witness of the Spirit

Warfare of the Spirit

Topic 5: Emblems of the Spirit

Topic 1: Helps of the Spirit

We're going to look at several different parts of the Holy Spirit, not just the gifts of the Spirit, but that's going to be a major portion of what I'm going to talk about. Look over with me at the first point, and that is the help that the Spirit gives. It talks about the power of the Spirit of God, and there's strength available. Ephesians 3:16 Remember how we talked about the Ephesian believers, and how they had done good works, and they had labored. Labor would signify weariness. But yet, they weren't weary. How was that possible? Well, they were weary in the work, but not weary of the work. I think their physical bodies were tired because of their work for the Lord Jesus Christ. I think that strength that you feel, even when you're totally exhausted, is the strength that comes from the Spirit of God. So there's great strength for you available as a believer, the strength that will strengthen the inner man by the Spirit. And then we find out about the sowing to the Spirit in Galatians 6, and I think you're familiar with this. In verse 7, it says (Galatians 6:7). And we know the principle of sowing and reaping. If a farmer goes out to plant and he sows corn, he'll reap corn. If you don't sow anything, you won't reap anything. But if you'd sow something, you're going to reap something. You sow bad, you're going to reap bad. You sow good, you're going to reap good. It's just a principle. It's just how it is. In verse 8 (Galatians 6:8) Sow to the Spirit by doing the things that He wants you to do, and those things inspire life. No, not eternal life. You can't be saved by that. We're saved by grace through faith in Christ alone. But your life will tend to be extended, because you have that sowing of the Spirit. You sow to the flesh, the sin brings death, and an untimely or early death, too. So sowing to the Spirit is the way that He wants to help you. Another way is He wants to lead you. Philippians 2:13 I find it so wonderful that the Bible talks about being led by the

Spirit. This is the same God that said, “Whosoever will, drink freely of the water. That salvation, it’s offered to anyone who will believe.” It’s a gift offered to anyone, the whole world. Jesus died for everyone. And so it is in the life of service to Christ, the Spirit of God doesn’t coerce us, doesn’t beg us. But wants to lead us. Does leading imply something? Leading, to me, implies somebody following. You know, He’s not behind you, shoving you. He’s leading you, and you’re following willingly, the leading of the Spirit of God. When depending on the leading of the Holy Spirit, He will incline the one who depends on Him to will and to do that which is of God’s good pleasure. Living a life under the direction of the Holy Spirit is the result of a voluntary choice. A voluntary choice. Follow. Follow. Live under that leading of the Spirit. And then the supply of the Spirit. In (Philippians 1:19), Again, not every time you read “salvation” in Scripture does it mean salvation from Hell to Heaven. It could also mean the salvation of your life, the life extension of your life, and that’s what this means here. But that is the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. There’s a lot that He gives you and supplies to you.

Assignment:

- Memorize Galatians 6:7-8

QUESTION 1

The believer is to get his _____ from the Holy Spirit.

QUESTION 2

The believer sows to the Spirit by _____ the things the Spirit wants.

QUESTION 3

The “leading” of the Spirit implies that we are to _____.

QUESTION 4

The Holy Spirit _____; He does not force or coerce.

Topic 2: Gifts of the Spirit

Now let’s start talking about the gifts that He gives. In 1 Corinthians 12, and by the way, the book of 1 Corinthians is written to, one of the problems was to solve the misinterpretation and the misapplication of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Spirit were being used incorrectly, as they are being used incorrectly today. We’ll get into that now. But in 1 Corinthians 12, it says in verse 8 (1 Corinthians 12:8-11). . . There’s various different kinds of tongues, too. . . . We have in this verse a description of some of the gifts that were given at this time. Some of these gifts we believe that these gifts have ceased. Many of these gifts that we just read about in this verse were called “sign gifts”. They were gifts given for the establishment of the church, and they would gradually cease, and we believe even at the time of this writing they were ceasing, and have ceased now. You say, “Well what is it when someone says they speak in tongues? What is it when someone says they’ve healed someone?” Well, I’ll tell you one thing it’s not. It’s not God doing it, and it’s not accurate in the Word of God. I don’t know exactly what it is, I really don’t. I think emotionalism, a person getting psyched up. I think some of it’s trickery. Some of it’s a person trying to get money and gifts given to them. If you’ve seen some of the scams and some of the

faith healers and all of that—a lot of that’s on television, and it’s not right, it’s wrong. But we’ll get into that in a moment. But what is a gift of the Spirit? What is a . . . and by the way, the term “spiritual gifts,” charisma, the gifts of the Spirit of God? Well, a gift means that the Holy Spirit does a particular service to the believer, using the believer to accomplish this task. And a gift is not something the believer does with the aid of the Spirit. A gift is something the Spirit gives, and is able to use the person, the believer, to accomplish this particular service. A gift is not a talent. We have some talents in people, and I guess that is a gift in a way. Now, you have the gift of being able to sing, or the gift of playing the piano. I don’t believe that’s the spiritual gift. I believe that’s the natural gift, and I hope you do use the natural gifts that God has given you to glorify Him and to help other people. But that is not what we’re talking about when we’re talking about a spiritual gift. A spiritual gift was given to you at the time of your second birth. (1 Corinthians 12:7) . . . That’s the same thing. . . . Every believer has been given gifts of the Spirit. You say, “Well, how come I don’t know what they are?” And there’s websites, by the way, you can go on and take a survey, and it’ll tell you what your spiritual gifts are. We are of the position, and I don’t list the gifts of the Spirit. We just read some of them that were given, and there are some in operation today, obviously. We believe that if you are yielding to the Holy Spirit and you are truly concerned about helping other people, that it will just kind of come naturally to you. You won’t have to go through some sort of a test, or survey, or rigmarole, or process, or have someone analyze you to know what your gift is. We believe if you’re just yielding to the Spirit, you want to be in God’s will and you’re making yourself available to Him, it’s going to be obvious to you. It’s going to be obvious to you. So therefore I’m not going to give you a list, and I think even the lists that I’ve been able to come up with are not conclusive. Maybe I had one in there that’s not a gift of the Spirit. Maybe I had something in there, or I missed something. So I don’t see a complete list anywhere in Scripture, so therefore I don’t want to emphasize that. The Spirit isn’t one to emphasize that, but it’s something given to you after your new birth, and it’s something that you’ll know as you are yielding to the Spirit, He will obviously reveal that to you and through you.

QUESTION 5

A gift of the Holy Spirit is a particular _____ that the Holy Spirit does to the believer.

QUESTION 6

A spiritual gift is not something the believer does with the _____ of the Spirit.

QUESTION 7

By giving a believer a spiritual gift, the Holy Spirit is able to use that believer to _____ a particular service.

QUESTION 8

Spiritual gifts are given as the believer _____ after the Holy Spirit.

QUESTION 9

As you yield to the Spirit and follow His leading, your spiritual gifts will become _____.

Seeking Spiritual Gifts

Now look at Hebrews 2, and we're going to look at verses 3-5: (Hebrews 2:3-5). This is the manifestation of the Spirit of God. This is the gift of the Holy Ghost. These gifts were used in the Early Church for one important reason, to confirm the gospel message. Spiritual gifts are given by God, and are not for man's seeking. You can't just say, "Oh, I want the gift of tongues. Oh, I want the gift of prophecy. Oh, I want the gift of evangelism." This is not for us to seek; it is not for us to want. And that is another problem. Even if those sign gifts are in operation today, every church that I've ever seen has the emphasis of desiring or seeking that gift. And that's not how it should be. This should be an operation that God gives, and it's not about us taking the gift. It's just the gift given by God. Every Christian is given the spiritual gifts by the will of God. In the Early Church, we don't find any of these Early Church men that said that the gifts, the sign gifts, were ceasing, or had ceased, even at that time. And they all verify that as well. In the Early Church, no one was released to Christian service who was not recognized to be Spirit-filled. Christians, there are some that are not yielding to Christ. They may possess the spiritual gifts, but they are not doing any good to the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:31) This is the wrong thing they had been doing. This is how incorrect it was at Corinth. They were coveting the best gifts. They wanted to do the best things. Even if the sign gifts are in operation today, it's being done wrong. It's being done wrong, and I don't believe they are. The Corinthian Christians had their eyes fixed on the lesser gift of tongues. Why? Because it was flashy. It was pretty interesting. By the way, tongues in Scripture was a known language. It wasn't gibberish. It wasn't just someone, and I don't know if any of you have ever heard someone speaking in tongues today, or what they say is tongues. But I've never heard them speak in a known language. And I can probably hear. I can't understand French or Spanish, but I can, I know if someone's speaking it. I can usually pick up German or something else, because I can hear the sounds. I'm familiar with them. And the languages that they're speaking aren't any of those known languages. It is gibberish. The languages were known. But that was a flashy, outward sign gift, and that's what they were all chasing after. And Paul was saying, "No, no, no! That's a lesser gift." It wasn't even one of the better gifts, but since it was showy, they wanted that one, and they want to use it for their own glory.

Assignment:

- Memorize Hebrews 2:3-4

QUESTION 10

Certain spiritual gifts were given to the early church to _____ the Gospel message.

QUESTION 11

Spiritual gifts are given by God and are not for man's _____.

QUESTION 12

The Corinthian Christians were _____ after the gifts that were flashy and showy.

QUESTION 13

The gift of tongues was the ability to speak in a _____.

Topic 3: Utilizing Spiritual Gifts

How do you use spiritual gifts? Well, no matter how small or great your spiritual gift, every Christian is essential for the body of Christ to function correctly. Every single Christian. Your gift might be something that is big, something that is small. You might be used in a great way or a small way, but I don't think there really are any small ways. I see people that are faithful in the little things. I really believe they're going to have high positions in glory, because they're faithful in the little things that God has given. God has given every Christian spiritual gifts and the ability to use them. To be profitable, they must be used with love. And this was another problem in Corinth. Let's look at that, (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). How important is love? It is critical. It's critical in the exercising of any spiritual gift, and they weren't using it correctly. And I don't believe spiritual . . . I believe spiritual gifts are being used incorrectly all over the place today, and it's hurting people. One church says, or one group of people say that before you will truly know you're saved, and at that time then you're baptized by the Holy Spirit. No, don't wait for some emotion. Don't wait for some sign. The moment you believe the Lord Jesus died and paid for your sins, you trust in Him and Him alone, you are saved. You are saved. Then you don't have to wait for some sign gift to verify that. Certain spiritual gifts were sign gifts used in the Early Church to confirm their message. Once the church was confirmed, once the church was established and especially, once the Word of God was complete, "that which is perfect" had come, then those other things would be done away with. We'll look at that in a moment. Let's first look at this tongues. Look over at 1 Corinthians 14. Tongues were a sign to the unbelieving Jew that God was through working with Israel at the time, and now working through the church, which is neither Jew nor Gentile. So this is a sign that this had happened. (1 Corinthians 14:21-22) Doesn't that tell you that tongues today that are done in churches are wrong, because they're being done for the believer. And here it says no tongues for the believer, and here it says tongues aren't for the believer, but for the unbeliever. And it wasn't necessarily so that the unbeliever might hear the gospel in their language, although that did happen at Pentecost, but it was a sign that God was now working through the church. (1 Corinthians 14:22). And again, that was in order to have the Word of God. The Word of God wasn't complete at the time, so that's why that gift in eminence. But history records that tongues had ceased already in the time of the disciples. One man, Cleon Rogers, Jr., wrote, *A Gift: A Gift of Tongues in the Post-Apostolic Church*. He said this, "It is significant that the gift of tongues is nowhere alluded to, hinted at, or even found in any writings of the Post-Apostolic Fathers. It's not found there. Clement of Rome, Justin Martyr, Origen, some of the greatest theologians in the ancient church, considered tongues a remote practice, something that only happened in the very early days of Christianity." So we have that evidence as well.

Assignment:

- Memorize 1 Corinthians 14:21-22

QUESTION 14

No matter how small or great your spiritual gift, every Christian is _____ for the body of Christ to function correctly.

QUESTION 15

The most critical thing in exercising any spiritual gift is _____.

QUESTION 16

The gift of tongues was given as a _____ to believers.

QUESTION 17

Tongues was a sign to the unbelieving Jew that God was working through the _____.

Sign Gifts Have Ceased

Sign gifts. Healing, prophecy, tongues—this is why I believe they have ceased: 1 Corinthians 13, verses 4, we're going to read all the way through the end, (1 Corinthians 13:4-13). That's what your life should be like, and it never fails. But, in the middle of verse 8 .Prophecies shall fail? Well they shall cease. Yes, they shall stop. . . supernatural knowledge, these are all the sign gifts. When the canon of Scripture, when all 66 books are done and canonized, then these things are done. They're over. "That which is perfect is come," and also it means the church is established. It's complete. It's done. So again, we don't see any reason for the sign gifts. And I don't believe they're in existence today. Oh, there's other spiritual gifts, though. Important spiritual gifts: the pastor, the teacher, the evangelist, the gift of helps. I could go through a list of spiritual gifts that I've read about in Scripture, but again, that's something that God has given you. You just need to be faithful and yielded, and allow Him to work through you in the lives of other people, and those gifts will be very evident to you.

QUESTION 18

The Apostle Paul wrote that sign gifts such as tongues and prophecy would _____ and fade away.

QUESTION 19

Once God's Word was _____, the sign gifts would cease.

QUESTION 20

If you are faithful and yielded to the Spirit, your gifts will become _____ to you.

Topic 4: Witness of the Spirit

Then we come to the witness of the Spirit. Look at (Romans 8:16). Now we've already kind of covered that, how the Holy Spirit is the proof, the seal, that we are God's children. And that is the witness of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives conscious recognition that we are God's children when we trust Jesus Christ as Savior. The Bible talks about the conviction of the Holy Spirit, and how those that are living in sin as believers will be convicted by God, convicted by the Holy Spirit and chastened. That is proof that that person is a child of God. You'll still be able to sin, but you won't be able to enjoy it like you used to. The conviction of the Spirit (1 John 5:10). That is the Spirit of God. The work of the Holy Spirit in the Christian's life can be hindered, though, by living carnally. And the Christian that's walking after the flesh, the Holy Spirit is hindered. We have worship by the Spirit. This is an important part of worship. Worship by the Spirit. In John 4:23, it talks about that: (John 4:23). Worship by the Spirit. The Communion of the Spirit, 2 Corinthians 13:14 talks about the communion. (2 Corinthians 13:14), that is

the fellowship. Communion means fellowship, or partnership, or having something in common. We have something in common, we all do because we have the Spirit of God, and we have that fellowship, the fellowship of the Holy Ghost. And then there's something called praying in the Holy Spirit, and we've kind of alluded to this already, but let's cover it again and look at (Romans 8:26-27). . . . Okay, the Spirit is there helping us, especially in this area of praying. It's not often that we really know what we ought to be praying for, and when we do pray, we're probably not praying in the way we should. So what happens? Well, the Spirit of God helps you there too. (Romans 8:26-27) That is not tongues, by the way. Okay, that's not tongues. This is the Spirit groaning, and which we can't understand. We can't even hear it. This is the Spirit making intercession . . . There are many times that Christians pray outside the will of God because we are walking carnally, or walking in the flesh, and I thank God the Spirit is fixing some of those requests that we're making to the Lord. The verse is showing praying in the Spirit. And so does Jude, that has one chapter. In verse 20 . . . Praying in the Spirit. Prayer is not just asking God for things, but the time to find God's will for you. (1 Corinthians 2:11) That's why a[n] unsaved person can't know the things of God, save salvation. That's the only thing. And even then, the Spirit of God is convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and of judgment. (1 Corinthians 2:12) The Spirit helping us to understand the things of God.

QUESTION 21

When we trust Christ as Savior, the Holy Spirit gives conscious _____ that we are God's children.

QUESTION 22

The presence of the Holy Spirit prevents the believer from _____ sin.

QUESTION 23

The Spirit _____ the believer to worship God.

QUESTION 24

Prayer is not just asking God for things, but finding God's _____ for your life.

QUESTION 25

If it were not for the Spirit, we would not know how to _____ or what to pray for.

Warfare of the Spirit

And then the warfare of the Spirit. Look at (Galatians 5:17). There's a warfare. If you're not armed with the things of God and the sword of the Spirit, then you will not be successful in battling the world, the devil, and the flesh. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5) That's fleshly. . . . This is the spiritual battle. This is the warfare that we fight. It's the pulling down of strongholds, and it's not carnal; it's spiritual. So we need to start being people that are walking in the Spirit and thinking spiritual things, and allowing the Spirit of God to help us. They are not used against fleshly foes, but against spiritual foes in spiritual battles. And every piece of the armor of the Christian that the Christian is instructed to wear in battle is provided for him. You have everything available to you; you just need to put it on. We find the teaching of the Spirit.

(1 Corinthians 2:14) That's why we need the Spirit of God teaching us and helping us to know God's things. And then the Holy Spirit and sin. It says in (Ephesians 4:30) We also know that there's something called the quenching of the Spirit, insulting the Spirit, blaspheming the Spirit, the sins against the Spirit of God. A Christian can do this. Ananias and Sapphira, (Acts 5:3) Here this Ananias was a believer. He was part of the church, and he deceived. He made a lie. How wrong that was. A lie to grieve the Holy Spirit. And he was taken out that day. Quench not the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19). In Acts 7:51, it says (Acts 7:51). So may we be people that yield, that use the spiritual gifts that are given to us. That we may never quench the Spirit, blaspheme, insult the Spirit of God.

QUESTION 26

We need to be people that are _____ in the Spirit and thinking spiritual things.

QUESTION 27

It is impossible for us to know and understand the things of God _____ from the Spirit's teaching.

QUESTION 28

It is possible for the believer to _____ the Spirit.

Topic 5: Emblems of the Spirit

Some emblems of the Holy Spirit. You've heard about the dove. And the dove, in Scripture, is a representation of the Holy Ghost. The dove, Noah sent out an unclean bird, and it did not return. The dove did come back with life, with the olive branch. And now today that's a symbol of peace, the dove and olive branch. That came from the story of Noah. The dove is an emblem of a renewed mind and the desolation all around it. It shows us that judgment is past. And if we think of the Holy Spirit as a dove, and remember that the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus Christ as a dove at the baptism, when He came out of the water? Think about that. The emblem of the Holy Spirit, a dove, one that comes and says "Now there is life." In the midst of the desolation of the day of Noah, everything was destroyed, but yet that dove came to show that there was life. And isn't that the Spirit of God in our lives? We're dead in trespasses and sins, but when we trust Christ as our Saviour, when we exercise our free will and put our trust in Him, the Holy Spirit indwells us, and that's a symbol that though once desolate, now there is life. There is life. Another emblem of the Spirit is water. John 7. It talks about the Spirit of God and water at the same time. . . . Water is essential for cleansing, satisfying, reviving, and refreshing. Folks, that is a perfect descriptor of the Holy Ghost, is water. The Holy Spirit cleanses, refreshes, satisfies, revives. So we think of the Holy Spirit as a dove. We think of the Holy Spirit as water. We think of the Holy Spirit as oil. Christ was the Anointed One, and He was anointed by the Holy Ghost. It talks about the anointing oil, another emblem of the Holy Ghost. And then also wind, breath. The breath of God, the Spirit of God. The life was breathed into Adam as he was formed from the dust of the ground, and then there was life. Doctors have a hard time explaining what is life. And then what happens at the moment of death? Well, we know. It's breath. Breath is life, and the Spirit is referred to as the Breath of God and wind. What is wind? Well, we know the effects of wind. We can feel the wind. We know the wind is there, but we cannot see it. So is the Spirit of God. And then the last thing that the Spirit is described to us is fire. Fire. The flame of fire, the tongue of fire. Purification properties of fire. And we know that fire will be used at the Judgment Seat of Christ, as our works will be tried by fire. The Holy Spirit's work there at the Judgment seat of Christ.

QUESTION 29

The Holy Spirit indwelling the believer is a symbol that what was once _____, now has life.

QUESTION 30

As God breathed the breath of life into _____ so the Holy Spirit breathes new life into the believer.