

Reading Report

Expectation Without Agenda / Report by Brock Covington

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Personal, Professional, and Theological Foundations for Ministry

SF505

Fall 2020

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October 6, 2020

SUMMARY: *Expectation Without Agenda* is an article by The Christian and Missionary Alliance that authenticates phenomenon relating to the Holy Spirit and His role individually and collectively. The born-again believer should expect to receive a gift from the Spirit for the edification of the Church. This expectation of a gift must be without any agendas, which could hamper spiritual growth and Church effectiveness. In contrast, God is glorified through the entire Church family's spiritual gifts when showing good stewardship in unity.

INTERACTIONS AND CRITIQUE: The article captures the essence of gifts as a believer seeks to be Spirit-filled, Spirit-led, and anointed by the Spirit. Spiritual gifts are evidence of God's supernatural power functioning in the heart and life of the believer. As maturity develops, a Christian begins seeking how to become useful for the Kingdom of God.

In ministry, members ponder on 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 and Galatians 5:22-23. The purpose of these Scriptures is to point Christians to their calling through their gift or gifts. Paul encourages us to develop our gifts (2 Timothy 1:6), maintaining that a continual pursuit of God's presence should take place. A Christian cannot lean on his or her understanding to personally recognize a possible gift (Proverbs 3:5-6). A Christian that relies on their own knowledge will not develop trust in God and His plan. Patience is imperative, and "A better way of confirming a person's spiritual gifting is through the local congregation and its leadership."

(www.cmalliance.org).¹ Remarkably, that statement is part of my testimony, which encourages the youth to have the same mind. Over the years, every Church leadership role I've obtained was not of my own pursuit. My focus was on following Jesus and spiritual gifting confirmation evolved.

¹ The Christian and Missionary Alliance. *Expectation Without Agenda*. <https://www.cmalliance.org/about/beliefs/perspectives/spiritual-gifts>.

This article did not necessarily reveal much about my worldview. Still, it confirmed that "spiritual gifts were given to build up the church, the body of Christ, as long as the church is under construction, spiritual gifts are needed." (www.cmalliance.org).² Spiritual gifts are needed now just as much as Christians needed gifts during the Acts era. Also, as in the Acts era, Jesus baptizes His followers with Power as they "walk" in obedience to their specific calling. Jesus lived His life as an example for us to follow. By example, He became the Son of man (human) just as we are; that was to teach us that, as a human, He had no power separate from the Father. The article highlights that "Jesus did His miraculous deeds in His Spirit empowered humanity (Acts 10:38)" (www.cmalliance.org).³

I recognize that "Regardless of the gifts or manifestations a believer may experience, the fruit of the Holy Spirit, as described in Galatians 5:22–23, is the primary evidence of the Spirit-filled life." (www.cmalliance.org).⁴ Having a Spirit-filled life is what becomes most effective when interacting with the community. Most people want to be loved the way God loves the world. Most people want to be inflamed by the joy that only God can provide. Most people want to have an overwhelming sense of peace that only God can provide.

Humanity wants all the fruit Jesus has to offer, but the Church must be in a spiritual position to distribute the fruit. That is Jesus' calling for all of His followers to bear fruit. The only prescribed way to have a fruitful nature is to abide in Jesus. And "These qualities are produced by the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. The fruit of the Spirit shows that the Holy Spirit is in control of the believer's life." (www.cmalliance.org).⁵ This article helped enrich the construction and confirmation of my spiritual calling. I cannot disagree with this composition.

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

My theology was invigorated by the confirmation of His word as it coupled the article. There are developing, and even visually successful Church systems in play, but dedicated systems are forming in Christ. Ministry wise, this article incited a passion for helping members live in obedience to Jesus for gifts to be realized.

Bibliography

The Christian and Missionary Alliance, "Expectation Without Agenda" Accessed October 6, 2020, <https://www.cmalliance.org/about/beliefs/perspectives/spiritual-gifts>.