

John Ross

SF505

Dr. Ron Walborn

Alliance Theological Seminary

Reading Report 3: Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual Gifts: Expectation Without Agenda

The Holy Spirit was given for the empowerment of the believers. As I read, *Spiritual Gifts: Expectation Without Agenda* I thought about all the years I was in church and how there was an agenda. The agenda of either speaking in tongues was to show by physical manifestation that you were filled. Also, the emphasis on expecting the Lord to move and at the same time having an agenda that if we do this or that, then and only then Holy Spirit would fall. This article helped me see that we wait with eager expectation for the appearance of our Lord, but we don't have an agenda for his time or how He chooses to reveal Himself through the gifts. We simply believe to the glory of the Lord that He will come and establish Himself on earth. He will do this through various contributions from the Holy Spirit, including tongues, prophecy, encouragement, apostleship, teaching, equipping, etc.

This reading correlates with my current ministry in the sense that as a body of believers, we believe in God for all the gifts of the HS. We believe that Jesus was Holy Spirit Anointed Humanity. We believe that there is an expectation for the move of the Holy Spirit and the baptism or second blessing of the Lord in the life of the believer. We also believe that we as a Church have totally made this into an agenda-driven ministry in the past. Not necessarily Life Center Church but that actual overall church. We actually never preach that you will have this

sign or that sign as evidence of the baptism of the HS. We simply say, “Come! Come Holy Spirit fall afresh on us. Have Your way in us and in this city!”

As a local body of believers, we have seen the damage of having an agenda-driven ministry instead of a Spirit-led ministry. As the CMA so eloquently articulated, “We must also remember that our “comfort zone” is not the same as spiritual discernment, and at times even a gift manifested in love may make those ignorant of it uncomfortable. Therefore, patient teaching on the gifts and their manifestations is a necessity.”¹

My final takeaway from this article has been the power of God’s holiness in my life, ministry, and theology since January 2022. The CMA talks about their belief in holiness and our obedience as prerequisites for a move of God both personally and corporately. “The gifts of the Holy Spirit operate through obedient and faith-filled disciples.”² I learned this greatly in 2022, basically at the end of 2021. I saw the hand of God in my life but there were still these blocks. I wanted to press in and once I discovered or Holy Spirit allowed me to discover that I have the been given gifts. One of those gifts was self-control. The gift of self-control is a huge weapon in combatting the “lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life” as mentioned in the first letter of John to the Johannian church. Self Control is also a key factor in obedience to the Lord and being a faith-filled disciple.

With integrity, I have read *Spiritual Gifts: Thoroughly and Entirely* __X__100%

Signed: _____ John Ross _____

1 <https://cmalliance.org/who-we-are/what-we-believe/perspectives/>

2 <https://cmalliance.org/who-we-are/what-we-believe/perspectives/>