

Assignment Title: Book Report 3

“Spiritual Gifts: Expectation Without Agenda” – The CMA Statement on Spiritual Gifts

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Course Title: Personal, Professional, and Theological Foundations For Ministry
Course Number: SF505
Semester & Year: Spring 2023
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Date Submitted: 2.14.23

Summary

The CMA Statement on Spiritual Gifts, “Spiritual Gifts: Expectation Without Agenda,” briefly explains the work of the Holy Spirit manifested in our lives through spiritual gifts and the purpose of spiritual gifts. The Church is one body made up of different parts, each of us brings our unique gifts, and God has created us as individuals to build up one another as the body of Christ, the Church. To steward these gifts, we need the help of the Holy Spirit and to both strengthen the members of the church as well as bring glory to God. Through obedience and faith-filled disciples, the gifts from the Holy Spirit empower us and positively impact the the fruit of our ministry.

Interaction and Critique

The reading interacts with my present ministry context because my job is to help with the onboarding and pastoring of church members serving on Sundays. What I’ve realized over the years is that with more responsibility comes greater dependence on the Holy Spirit. When either I or anyone else steps into a greater role serving on Sundays, their devotional time should deepen as well. This includes reading your Bible, praying, praying in tongues, and fasting. Without these biblical practices to edify our Spirit, we’ll experience burnout and/or attacks from the enemy.

I agree with the author that no gift is greater than another, they all function to build up the church and to bring glory to God. Even the gift of tongues, although strengthens our own spirit man, builds up the church because the health of your soul transfers and impacts others around you. I thought it was an excellent point to mention, “The local congregation will recognize and

validate genuine spiritual gifts as the gifted person's ministry contributes to the building up of the local church body." In addition to see the fruit of spiritual gifts benefiting the church body, the church body will also validate the gifting and calling on that person's life.

After reading the section on Galatians 5:22-23, I realized that I don't always trust that the evidence of a spirit-filled life being shown through the fruits of the Spirit. My spiritual expectation is that God can work through our weakness, and sometimes the fruits of the spirit can come across as performative and ingenuine. In the reading, it writes, "The fruit of the Spirit shows that the Holy Spirit is in control of the believer's life." Meaning, when we are operating out of the overflow of being in God's presence and experiencing his power, the manifestation looks like peace, patients, self-control, and so on. However, the author previously notes that there is a record of people being filled with the Holy Spirit with and without mention of Spiritual gifts. Therefore, we should be cautious not to impose presuppositions of how the Spirit will manifest in someone's life as well as avoid elevating certain spiritual gifts over others.

With integrity, I have read this book (circle one):

Thoroughly and Entirely 100%

Quickly but Completely _____%

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely _____%

Quickly and NOT Completely _____%

Signed: Annika Tilly

Bibliography

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