

“SPIRITUAL GIFTS” - READING REPORT

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I love when I can read something that helps me understand and articulate spiritual truths. Reading *Alliance Perspectives: Spiritual Gifts* did just that. I love how it emphasized that the gifts are for today and that all gifts are necessary; not making one gift better than the other. And how these gifts are used to serve and build up the church in love. Not for our selfish gain. God has moved mightily through many people with these gifts, but if we aren't careful, pride can corrupt us and make us think that *we* are the source of these gifts and not God. It's sad to see how we as Christians can become corrupted by the miraculous workings of the Holy Spirit through us. The focus is always God, His love and the building up of His church as this document emphasizes. This is a very important statement on page 6,

“Paul exhorts the Corinthian congregation to eagerly desire spiritual gifts... This does not mean, however, that gifts should be used to exalt the individual or to feed an immature desire for attention... Spiritual gifts must be used in love... If they are not used in love they will be abused and cause trouble in the body, rather than blessing.”¹

So it is imperative that we continually humble ourselves to the Lord as we continue to use the spiritual gifts He's gifted us with.

This article not only thoroughly supports my understanding of spiritual gifts, it also challenges me to continue to practice the gifts so that I can grow in them. This is something that I need to do more often than not. And I couldn't agree more when the article spoke about how the spiritual gifts have not ceased. In 2021, I had a God encounter through a prophecy by my pastor, Dr. David Ireland, that literally saved my life! Had my pastor not operated in obedience to what the Lord was telling him through the spiritual gift of prophecy, I would not be the man I am today. God used the spiritual gift of prophecy to pull me out of the biggest hole I was in and started the process of restoring my faith. The spiritual gifts have not ceased!

¹ *Alliance Perspectives: Spiritual Gifts*, (Alliance University, Alliance Theology Seminary), 6, <https://cmalliance.org/who-we-are/what-we-believe/perspectives/>

This reading also sharpened my perspective on the filling of the Holy Spirit. And that we do not have to speak in tongues as evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit, as some like to argue. When I came across this passage in the article, it blew me away:

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. 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.²

This passage allowed me to be grounded in the fruit of a person's life, rather than how effective they (including myself) are in their gifts or ministry. *Matthew 7:16* says, "You will know them by their fruits..."³ when Jesus was referring to wolves in sheep's clothing. Jesus also states in the same chapter in verses 21-23 that He will tell people who operated in the spiritual gifts to depart from Him because He never knew them. All this to say that being Holy Spirit-filled is most evident in our lifestyle rather than how we operate in the spiritual gifts.

One truth that is hard for me to fathom is that Jesus didn't operate in His Deity, but that He operated as 100% man filled with the Holy Spirit. It blows my mind because it tells me that we can do EXACTLY what Jesus did, and that's hard to fathom. Even Jesus said that we will do greater works than Him, and I'm still trying to wrap my head around that Truth. This is a spiritual truth that I pray to walk in fully one day. Raising Lazarus after being completely dead for four days, is something that the Holy Spirit can possibly do through me is hard to believe. But since God said it, then it is possible!

In conclusion, this article truly strengthens my stance on how we are supposed to operate in the spiritual gifts today. We are in need of the church body operating in these gifts so people can encounter God, and be drawn to God, in life changing ways. Use your spiritual gifts!

² *Alliance Perspectives: Spiritual Gifts*, (Alliance University, Alliance Theology Seminary), 8, <https://cmalliance.org/who-we-are/what-we-believe/perspectives/>

³ *The Holy Bible, New King James Version - Matthew 7:16*, (Thomas Nelson 1982)

With integrity, I have read this book:

Thoroughly and Entirely_____ %

Quickly but Completely_____ %

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely_____ %

Quickly and NOT Completely_____ %

Not At all

Signed: Turron Alleyne