

Assignment Title: Reading Report #3

Spiritual Gifts by Christian and Missionary Alliance

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In its statement regarding Spiritual Gifts, the C&MA lays out the spiritual gifts that are available to us, and how we are empowered through the Holy Spirit to walk in the authority and power of Christ to practice those. It emphasizes the importance of our fellowship with the Holy Spirit to walk boldly.

While doing this reading, I was reminded of a verse, Hosea 4:6 that says, “My people perish for lack of knowledge.” I believe this correlates with the subject of the gifts of the Spirit because I believe the Church is in dire need of us walking in the fullness of the power and the authority that we have in Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, we will never walk in that power and authority if we do not know what is available to/for us. If we do not know the promises of God for our lives and the instruments that He has made available to us, not only for us to access them but also to manifest His Kingdom on this earth in and through us.

On the other hand, I believe that another major issue within the Church regarding the gifts of the Spirit is that our knowledge about them is rather superficial, carnal, and not fully biblical. Meaning, we do know what Paul says in 1 Corinthians about the gifts but are not driven or passionate enough to nurture them, in a way that would honor God and continue advancing His kingdom; and at times, do not believe the same power and authority is available to us now. Unfortunately, this knowledge is often applied to position those gifted in leadership and place in offices those who have yet gone through the incubator within the church. Nevertheless, as Dr. Walborn stated during the lecture on Spiritual Gifts, these are tools for building the kingdom, not toys for the entertainment of the church. This does the church a disservice instead of helping us, because once in a position; one may become boastful, egocentric and self-righteous because now the gifts are just a means to an end (the role/position/title) and not a conduit to fellowship with the Holy Spirit and the Father; Instead of discipling the believer in the gifts that one may have or

desire, and allowing – through the sanctification of the Holy Spirit – one to maturely grow into those gifts.

Through the Holy Spirit we are able to experience heaven on earth; The power of God in all its fullness and be able to witness to others the life of Christ, so that they may know Him and be known by Him too. Nevertheless, throughout this semester I have been prompted to reflect on if I am embracing the fullness of the Holy Spirit in my life or walking passively. The Spiritual Gifts Statement portrays, “A creed of power without the experience of power is worthless.” Relationship with the Triune God is that creed of power, however, being a “Christian”, solely having the head knowledge and not the experiential knowledge is not living in the wholeness of Christ.

Additionally, the C&MA states, “Another strong evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit is a fruitful ministry.” I was troubled by this statement in particular because during this season of my life I am in no specific “ministry” in the church or in staff. Through this the Lord showed me that during this season of my life, my spiritual formation – my life - is the ministry which ought to be fruitful first before any other one. Caring for my soul and spirit right now is a ministry.

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

Thoroughly and Entirely \_\_\_100\_\_\_%

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_Stephany Ortiz\_\_\_\_\_

Bibliography

The Christian and Missionary Alliance. "Spiritual Gifts: Expectation Without Agenda."  
Accessed February 22, 2023.  
<https://cmalliance.org/who-we-are/our-faith-and-mission/perspectives/>.