

Reading Report

CMA Statement: Spiritual Gifts

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Personal, Professional, and Theological Foundations For Ministry
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Summary

This reading is the Christian Mission Alliance's Statement concerning spiritual gifts. They go over what spiritual gifts are and what their original purpose was. Some questions that are answered here are "Who can have spiritual gifts?" "How do they work?" "Is one more important than another?" "What is the evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit?" "Have some ceased to exist?" "How can I discover my spiritual gifts?" They answer through examples of the apostles and the church in Acts, through quotes of spiritual leaders of the CMA, and different bible verses that talk about strengthening the church, impartation from leaders, the gifts to be desired, and the evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Interaction and Critique

The first thing I think when I read this article is "Am I living a life that allows the Holy Spirit to move through me?" Is my body truly a temple where He can rest His head? Will I be able to be a mentor to the girls I serve at church that teaches them how to minister to others with the gifts they've been given? I realize that if I don't know how to let go of control and allow the Holy Spirit to take over, I will not have a fruitful ministry. I know that each of them have their unique gifting and paths, how can I shepherd them toward the voice of God? I could bring them a spiritual gift test, but truly they will only see their anointed giftings in active service to others.

Something this reading revealed to me is that I never really considered the fruits of the Spirit when looking at someone's spiritual gifts. For some reason I thought they were separate. The CMA says "The fruit of the Spirit shows that the Holy Spirit shows that the Holy Spirit is in control of the believer's life." A couple paragraphs before this, they say "every believer should seek to be filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit." Here, the words "filled" and "controlled" are being used interchangeably. If someone is filled by the Holy Spirit, they have allowed

themselves to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. I thought the fruit of prophecy is how accurate it is. I thought the fruit of the gift of tongues is if it can be interpreted. But as Galatians 5:22-23 says, “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” Is the church being empowered and built up and strengthened? Or is it slowly crumbling down and falling apart behind the scenes?

A statement that I really agreed with was “It would seem to be a dangerous thing to try and convince someone they have been filled with the Spirit if there is no manifest evidence in their lives” (cmalliance.org). Are people seeing the fruits of the Spirit in this person? Do people closest to them see how much they’ve changed? The fruit of the Spirit comes from spending time with the Holy Spirit and learning how to let go and let the Holy Spirit take control. Although I really agree, it is also an outstanding reminder to take care of my soul.

This reading has impacted me in a way I will look less at the gifts of the Spirit in each person and more at the fruits of the Spirit in a person. I had a student come up to me during the last night of a retreat and tell me she loves Jesus. This was a girl that struggled with her sexuality and felt hurt by Christianity and correlated the feeling of rejection and loneliness with the church. That retreat was the one and only time these past few months that I’ve known her that she told me she loves Jesus. I still remember the purity and genuinity that flowed from those words. This reading reminds me of her and how I should be cautious when ministering to her. Was her encounter with the Lord one of many or did the Holy Spirit awaken inside her and change her way of thinking? The CMA says “we are spiritual beings having a temporary natural experience.” I truly believe this will change the way I minister to people. I have been ministering to these girls like we are “natural beings with temporary spiritual experiences” (cmalliance.org). We are spiritual beings, therefore need spiritual food, leading to spiritual fruits.

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

Thoroughly and Entirely_____%

Quickly but Completely___100__%

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely_____%

Quickly and NOT Completely_____%

Not at all

Signed: _____Jessica Lee_____

Bibliography