

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Message 03 of the series "The Third Person"

A. Jesus gave His disciples a mission before He ascended into heaven.

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

1. Jesus promised to return when our mission is completed.

"And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14 (NLT)

2. Jesus promised to send His disciples the Holy Spirit to empower us to complete our mission.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (NLT)

Life Application: Through the power of the Holy Spirit we can participate in carrying the Good News of Jesus all over the world. "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father." John 14:12 (NLT)

B. The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts to enable us to carry out our mission together.

1. The Holy Spirit gives believers a wide variety of gifts so we can help each other.

"A spiritual gift (manifestation of the Spirit) is given to each of us so we can help each other. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said." 1 Corinthians 12:1-10 (NLT)

"In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly." Romans 12:6-8 (NLT)

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 4:10-11 (NLT)

"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ." Ephesians 4:11-13 (NLT)

Life Application: We should desire spiritual gifts. "Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesy." 1 Corinthians 14:1 (NLT)

2. The Holy Spirit ensures no one receives all of the spiritual gifts so that we need each other.

"The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. If the foot says, 'I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,' that does not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear says, 'I am not part of the body because I am not an eye,' would that make it any less a part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. How strange a body would be if it

had only one part! Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. The eye can never say to the hand, 'I don't need you.' The head can't say to the feet, 'I don't need you.' ...Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not!" 1 Corinthians 12:12-21,29-30 (NLT)

3. The Holy Spirit ensures that all spiritual gifts are important so that we will care for each other.

"In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:22-27,29-30 (NLT)

Life Application: We can develop whatever spiritual gifts we receive. "...fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you." 2 Timothy 1:6 (NLT)

4. The Holy Spirit decides which gifts we receive.

"Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this... There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us... It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have."

1 Corinthians 12:1-4,11 (NLT)

Life Application: The Holy Spirit is a person we can know and trust, NOT a power we can control. "When Simon saw that the Spirit was given when the apostles laid their hands on people, he offered them money to buy this power. 'Let me have this power, too,' he exclaimed, 'so that when I lay my hands on people, they will receive the Holy Spirit!' But Peter replied, 'May your money be destroyed with you for thinking God's gift can be bought! You can have no part in this, for your heart is not right with God. Repent of your wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive your evil thoughts, for I can see that you are full of bitter jealousy and are held captive by sin.' 'Pray to the Lord for me,' Simon exclaimed, 'that these terrible things you've said won't happen to me!'" Acts 8:18-24 (NLT)

5. If we use our spiritual gifts without love they are worthless.

"If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NLT)

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"On a scale of one to ten, how much do you love the church? As you look around at your brothers and sisters, do you think to yourself, I love these people so much. I pray God empowers me in some way to encourage these people toward a deeper walk with Him?" -Francis Chan

Connect Group Questions:

1. In your opinion, what is the purpose of spiritual gifts?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12 and 13. Why do you think Paul wrote chapter 13 right after speaking about spiritual gifts?
3. What spiritual gifts do you see operating in your Connect Group?
 - Discernment
 - Healing
 - Prophecy
 - Interpretation of Tongues
 - Miracles
 - Leadership
 - Teaching
 - Mercy
 - Faith
 - Knowledge
 - Tongues
 - Wisdom
 - Giving
 - Hospitality
 - Helps
 - Encouragement
4. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Paul compared the local body of believers to a human body. How vital is it for every part of your body to function? What happens when a body part stops functioning? How does that relate to the body of believers, the local church?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 12:31 and 1 Corinthians 14:1. What does it look like to desire spiritual gifts? Which ones do you desire to have?