

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 2nd Corinthians 14:8 NLV

First Love Ministries, Inc.
PRAYER STUDY #102

THE HOLY SPIRIT

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:8

1. Where does the church get power(dunamis) to be a witness? Acts 1:8
2. How do you recognize a Holy Spirit-powered church?
 - a. **Evangelism**-Timothy 4:5 *But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.*
 - b. **A change in people** (Acts 2:37-41 *Now when they heard this [that they, Israel, had crucified the Lord], they were pierced in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is unto you and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord, our God, shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this crooked generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*), **a change in places** (Acts 5:28 *Saying, Did not we strictly command you [the apostles] that ye should not teach in this name? And, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.*), **and a chance in things** (Matthew 17:20-21-Jesus' answer when the disciples asked why they could not cure the epileptic boy: *And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief; for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Move from here to yonder place, and it shall move and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit, this kind goeth not out except by prayer and fasting.*).

- c. **It turns the whole world upside down**-Acts 17:6-Paul and Silas at Thessalonica: *And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come here also.*
3. What is the work of the Holy Spirit?
- a. **Convict men of the sin of unbelief**
- b. **Convict men that Jesus is the righteousness of God**
- c. **Convict men that the power of Satan has been broken**
- John 16:7-15 *Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you. And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment: Of sin because they believe not on Me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see Me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Nevertheless, when He, the Spirit of Truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth; for He shall not speak of Himself, but whatever He shall hear, that shall He speak, and He will show you things to come. He shall glorify Me, for He shall receive of mine and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine; therefore said I, that He shall take of mine and shall show it unto you.*
4. What are spiritual gifts? 1st Corinthians 12:1-11 *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. Wherefore, I give you to understand that no man speaking by the Spirit of God called Jesus accursed; and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administration, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God who worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit. For to one is given, by the Spirit, the word of wisdom; to another, the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another, faith by the same Spirit; to another, the gift of healing by the same Spirit; to another, the working of miracles; to another, prophecy; to another, discerning of spirits; to another, various kinds of tongues; to another, the interpretation of tongues. But all these worketh that one and the very same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.*

- a. Gifts of Revelation (THINK LIKE GOD)
 - 1. **Word of Wisdom:** a supernatural revelation of God's purpose
 - 2. **Word of Knowledge:** a supernatural revelation of facts in the mind of God
 - 3. **Discerning of Spirits:** a supernatural insight into the realm of spirits
- b. Gifts of Power (ACT LIKE GOD)
 - 1. **Faith:** a supernatural trust in God for the miraculous
 - 2. **The Working of Miracles:** a supernatural intervention of God's power in the ordinary course of nature
 - 3. **Gifts of Healing:** a supernatural manifestation of power to heal diseases
- c. Gifts of Inspiration (TALK LIKE GOD)-vocal gifts
 - 1. **Prophecy:** a supernatural utterance in a known tongue
 - 2. **Divers Kinds of Tongues:** a supernatural utterance in an unknown tongue
 - 3. **Interpretation of Tongues:** a supernatural giving forth of the meaning of other tongues

We base this on the listing in 1st Corinthians 12:8-10 and from the excellent teaching we have received from Pastor Don Van Hoosier at High Point Church in Macon, Georgia. Much of the material we use to teach on the Holy Spirit-and this Prayer Study is only a small fraction of the material we have to share from the Word of God on this important subject-comes directly from Brother Don's teaching. He is a brilliant Bible scholar and is very balanced, and I have had the privilege of sitting under his covering for many years and watching his life in Christ lived out everyday under many different circumstances. There are other listings of the gifts in at least two other places. Romans 12:6-8 indicates that prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, ruling, and showing mercy as gifts. 1st Corinthians 12:28 includes apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, gifts of healing, helps, government, and diversities of tongues. We prefer, however, to stick to the 9 gifts in 1st Corinthians 12:8-10 as the Gifts of the Holy Spirit which are available to those who have received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, a wonderful experience open to all believers, I believe. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a subject we will cover in other prayer studies.

Those who have not experienced and are not open to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit often express three different opinions of spiritual gifts:

1. Some say everyone has spiritual gifts but that they are not being manifested. If this were so, we would not be told to desire and earnestly seek and covet them.
2. Some say that they are optional, but we are told not to be ignorant of them and again commanded to desire them and covet them earnestly.
3. Some deny them and say they were for the establishment of the early church and went out when the New Testament was written and the church established. If that were true, why would they be manifesting parts of the church today. Also, I believe that church history clearly shows that these gifts have been in the church in some measure since Pentecost.

The Word tells us four things not to be ignorant of:

1. **That God is not pleased with everyone in the "congregation."** 1st Corinthians 10:1-10: *Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant that all our fathers were under the cloud and all passed through the sea and were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea and did all eat the same spiritual food and did all drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well-pleased; for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us put Christ to the test, as some of them also tested Him and were destroyed by serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed by the destroyer.*
2. **Concerning Spiritual Gifts:** 1st Corinthians 12:1 *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.*
3. **Concerning Those CHRISTIANS Who Have Died:** 1st Thessalonians 4:13 *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them who are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others who have no hope.*
4. **God's Time Is Not Our Time:** 2nd Peter 3:8 *But beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day.*