

## EXPLORING GOD'S WORD

### LESSON 8b

In our last lesson, we explored the birth of the New Testament church on the day of Pentecost and how the Apostles interpreted and applied the Great Commission given to them by Jesus. On this first day of the church, Peter preached both the Gospel (the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ) and the Plan of Salvation (repentance, water baptism in Jesus' name, and the infilling of the Holy Ghost). Acts chapter 2 provides an important pattern for the church. This is the clearest model of experience and doctrine for the church today to follow.

#### **1 Corinthians 2:12 (NKJV)**

**12** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

#### **I. THE PURPOSE OF THE HOLY GHOST:**

1. The Spirit gives us power:

**Acts 1:8** - But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

2. The Spirit teaches and guides us:

**John 14:26** - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

There are some things that cannot be learned with the natural mind.

**1 Corinthians 2:14** - But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

3. The Spirit imparts the love of God:

**Romans 5:5** - Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

4. The Spirit gives righteousness, joy, and peace:

**Romans 14:17** - for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

5. The Spirit gives eternal life:

**Romans 8:11** - But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

#### **II. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT: (Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-14)**

The gifts of Spirit are given to edify the body of Christ and for the work of ministry.

The gifts of the Spirit should be normal within the church, but not continuous.

Paul lists nine spiritual gifts and these gifts can be grouped together in three categories. Each gift is a supernatural empowerment beyond our own limited human abilities:

1. Power to know supernaturally:
  - a. Word of knowledge
  - b. Word of wisdom
  - c. Discerning of Spirits
  
2. Power to act supernaturally:
  - a. Gift of Faith
  - b. Gifts of Healing
  - c. Working of Miracles
  
3. Power to speak supernaturally:
  - a. Prophecy
  - b. Diverse kinds of tongues
  - c. Interpretation of tongues

God grants all believers wisdom, knowledge, faith, and tongues, but the gifts are specific, supernatural operations of these within and for the church.

i.e. Having saving faith is not the same as the “gift of faith.”

i.e. Gaining biblical knowledge is not the same as operating in the “word of knowledge.”

### **III. UNDERSTAND THE PRACTICE OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES: (See 1 Corinthians 14:)**

In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul provides insight and instructions to the church regarding the practice of speaking in tongues. It is important to understand that what Paul is addressing is the use of tongues as a ministry gift within the local church. He is not referring to the use of speaking in tongues as the initial evidence of Holy Spirit baptism. There were no such restrictions placed on the initial experience. (See Acts 2:4, Acts 10:44-46, Acts 19:5-7)

1. There are three ways that tongues are used in the New Testament:
  - a. As the initial evidence of the Holy Ghost
  - b. As personal prayer language
  - c. As way to communicate a message to the church
  
2. Speaking in tongues is the supernatural experience of speaking in a previously unknown or heavenly language. (Read 1 Corinthians 14:2)

#### **1 Corinthians 14:2 (NKJV)**

**2** For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

3. Paul encouraged speaking in tongues; he did not forbid it. (Read 1 Corinthians 14:39)

### **1 Corinthians 14:39 (NKJV)**

**39** Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

4. When we pray in tongues, our spirit prays even if our understanding is unfruitful. (Read 1 Corinthians 14:14)

### **1 Corinthians 14:14 (NKJV)**

**14** For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

5. When we pray in tongues, we build up our own spirit. (Read 1 Corinthians 14:4 and Jude 20)

### **1 Corinthians 14:4(NKJV)**

**4** He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

6. Praying aloud in tongues should never disrupt a service, unless there is a message from God accompanied by an interpretation. (Read 1 Corinthians 14:18-19, 26-28)

### **1 Corinthians 14:18–19 (NKJV)**

**18** I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;

**19** yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

### **1 Corinthians 14:26–28 (NKJV)**

**26** How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

**27** If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret.

**28** But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.

## **IV. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT:** (Read Galatians 5:22-23)

Spiritual gifts are not necessarily evidence of spiritual maturity. We should seek first the Fruit of the Spirit.

The Fruit of the Spirit is simply the nature and life of God transforming our character and attitudes through His Spirit that resides in us.

The Fruit of the Spirit are the long term evidence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.