

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 _____. (Read Acts 1:8)
2. The Spirit _____ and _____ us. (Read John 14:26)

There are some things that cannot be learned with the _____.

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 _____ of God. (Read Romans 5:5)
4. The Spirit gives _____, _____, and _____. (Read Romans 14:7)
5. The Spirit gives _____ _____. (Read Romans 8:11)

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

The gifts of Spirit are given to _____ the body of Christ and the _____ of _____.

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

Paul lists _____ 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 _____ supernaturally:
 - a. Word of _____
 - b. Word of _____
 - c. _____ of Spirits
2. Power to _____ supernaturally:
 - a. Gift of _____
 - b. Gifts of _____
 - c. Working of _____

3. Power to _____ supernaturally:
 - a. _____
 - b. Diverse kinds of _____
 - c. _____ 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 _____ of the Holy Ghost
 - b. As personal _____
 - c. As way to communicate a _____ to the church
2. Speaking in tongues is the supernatural experience of speaking in a previously _____ or _____ language. (Read 1 Corinthians 14:2)
3. Paul _____ speaking in tongues; he did not _____ it. (Read 1 Corinthians 14:39)
4. When we pray in tongues, our spirit prays even if our _____ is unfruitful. (Read 1 Corinthians 14:14)
5. When we pray in tongues, we _____ our own spirit. (Read 1 Corinthians 14:4 and Jude 20)
6. Praying aloud in tongues should never disrupt a service, unless there is a message from God accompanied by an _____. (Read 1 Corinthians 14:18-19, 26-28)

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 _____ and _____ through His Spirit that resides in us.

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