

Understanding Spiritual Gifts

Week 2 - Where Do Spiritual Gifts Come From & What Is Their Purpose?

INTRODUCTION

- Last week we saw that Spiritual gifts fall into two categories: Speaking & Serving.
- In the book of Acts, Luke focuses a lot on the Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit.
- The Coming of the Holy Spirit marks the beginning of the New Testament Church.
- We'll spend most of our time tonight in Acts Chapter 2. Turn there now in your Bible.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Who promised the Gift of the Holy Spirit?

- Here, and in several other passages, God/Jesus promised the Holy Spirit!

What was this "power" going to allow us to do?

- Be Jesus' witnesses throughout the whole earth.

Acts 2:1-8,12-13

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.

6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

When did this take place?

- Jesus taught His disciples for 40 days He returned to Heaven. (Acts 1:4)
- The disciples were told to wait for the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8) They waited 10 days!
- Pentecost is 50 days after the Passover.

Who spoke in tongues?

- Each disciple started evangelizing in a different language.

What were the two responses from the crowd?

- Amazement & Ridicule
- Interesting how those are the main two responses we have to church today!

Acts 2:32-33

32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

According to this passage, where did this gift come from?

- o First, from the Father and then through the Son!

Acts 2:37-43

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call." 40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

How did the crowd Respond to Peter's message?

- "Pierced to the heart!" Convicted!

How did Peter respond?

- Repent and be Baptized!
 - o Note that Peter said Repent, be Baptized and THEN you'll receive the Holy Spirit.
 - o Peter wasn't saying that you'll receive the Holy Spirit only after Salvation/Baptism.
 - o They assumed that repentance and baptism were going to happen in a short time!

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

How are these gifts related to each other?

- They all work together like parts of the body!
- Each one has it's important role to play in the health and wholeness of the Body.

What is the combined purpose and goal of the Gifts of the Spirit?

- They are for the "common good!"
- They serve the church - not the individual!

CLOSING

- One of the mistakes Christians (and Churches) make is turning the focus of Spiritual Gifts onto ourselves! They are to Promote God.
- Are you using your gifts to glorify God or yourself? Who benefits from your Gift?
- How can/are you using your gift to edify and build up the Family of God?