

Being Filled With the Spirit of God (Part Four) (Ephesians 5:18)

For the past several months, we have been considering the topic of being filled with the Spirit of God. This action of God's Spirit works in the lives of every believer in Jesus Christ. This event is predictable, in that the believer can be filled with the Spirit on purpose, at any time they choose. It is also unique in that it is different from His other works on Earth. It is also a useful event, in that God helps us to understand His Word and to pray through the Person of His Spirit.

III. It Is a Useful Event

C. He Helps Us to Do God's Work on Earth (I Corinthians 12:1-11)

Last month, we covered the first half of a list of spiritual gifts that God provides to His children. We must remember that every believer has at least one spiritual gift and these are used to serve Jesus Christ, as we journey toward Heaven.

The seventh spiritual gift (**Romans 12:7**) shows us a person that **teaches**. Teaching and preaching are not the same things, but both are needful. Preaching is *explaining the Word of God to help the hearer make a spiritual application to increase their walk with Jesus*. Teaching is *explaining a subject to help the hearer increase in knowledge regarding that subject*. All preaching should have some teaching, but teaching does not need to have any preaching to be effective. Both are important to help a believer grow in the Lord.

The eighth (**Romans 12:8**) gift reveals a person that **exhorts**. When we exhort someone, we are *comforting, carefully admonishing, or encouraging them*. It takes the Spirit's help to help us to speak to another person in a helpful manner. It is the Spirit of God alone that gives us special words of encouragement and the love, joy, and longsuffering that we need to work with others.

The ninth (**Romans 12:8**) gift tells us about a person that **gives with simplicity**. All believers are commanded to give tithes and offerings to their local church, in order to finance the Lord's work in the world (**Malachi 3:10; I Corinthians 16:1-2**). Sometimes the Spirit allows certain people to have resources above and beyond what they need and puts a desire in their hearts to give above and beyond their tithe. When a person gives in such a way, the scriptures command that they give with simplicity, not pomp and fanfare. This way of giving is commanded clearly when Jesus condemned the Pharisees for drawing much attention to their giving and ordered His disciples to give in secret, in order to be rewarded openly (**Matthew 6:1-4**).

The tenth (**Romans 12:8**) spiritual gift declares a person that **rules with diligence**. This gift is especially given to church leaders. To rule means *to be set over a thing*. It does not mean that the leader is a monarch or dictator, but an overseer and administrator. The Spirit of God helps a church leader to oversee the ministry that God has assigned them to with diligence and care, instead of apathy and abuse.

The eleventh, and final, gift (**Romans 12:8**) shows us a person that **has mercy with cheerfulness**. This is *a special gift given to a believer in order to help those that are afflicted*. One of the more neglected ministries of many local churches is helping the poor and afflicted (**Galatians 2:9-10**). It is our duty to reach the hurting, rejected, and afflicted with the love, mercy, and patience of the Lord Jesus Christ,

while giving them His Gospel. It takes the Spirit of God to help us bear these fruits and minister with cheerfulness to the poor and afflicted.

Please remember again that each believer in Jesus Christ is given at least one of these gifts upon salvation. Only we can discern what the Spirit has given us, as we read God's Word, pray, and serve. What gift has God given you to serve Him with? If we identify and utilize our gifts for God's glory and according to the scriptures, then we are being good stewards of them. But, if we identify and ignore our spiritual gifts, we are hurting the work of the Lord with our poor stewardship. God has chosen you to do a certain thing for Him. I encourage you to identify that gift and seek how best to utilize it as soon as possible. If you are confused on these matters, we are always available to help.

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