

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

Last month, we continued to consider 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)

Every believer in Jesus Christ is given a divine purpose upon this Earth. There are no accidents or outcasts with God; every believer is saved for the purpose of serving the Lord Jesus and glorifying Him through that service (**Matthew 5:16**). The Spirit of God tells us that every local church is like a body that has many members (or parts) (**I Corinthians 12:12**). The body has one purpose, but the members have many different functions. Likewise, the church has one purpose: to fulfill the Great Commission, but the church members all perform different functions, in order to fulfill it (**Matthew 28:19-20**).

Scripture tells us that the Spirit of God equips every believer with at least one special ability that allows them to serve the Lord in the local church. Some of the abilities mentioned in Scripture were sign gifts, meaning that they were *gifts used to prove the true nature of the Gospel message to the Jews, as the apostles performed certain miracles in Jesus' name* (**Mark 16:15-18; Acts 3:1-26; I Corinthians 1:22-24**). These gifts helped the early church get started and were gradually phased out, as the Bible was completed (**I Corinthians 13:8-10**), but many of these abilities are still alive and well today.

In **I Corinthians 12:1-11** and **Romans 12:6-8**, we can find many spiritual gifts that come about through the filling of the Spirit, for the service of the Lord. First (**v.8**), we can see a person that is able **to give the word of wisdom**. This is *the ability to open the scriptures and explain them to others* (especially the Gospel). We see this gift in action whenever a person takes the Bible and explains it on an understandable level to others.

Second (**v.8**), we see another person that is able **to give the word of knowledge**, by the Spirit of God. This is *the ability to take the scriptures and counsel someone out of them*. We state that all Scripture is necessary and sufficient for living life on Earth (**II Timothy 3:16-17**). Therefore, it takes a person with this spiritual gift to show us how the Bible applies to certain situations.

Third (**v.9**), we see a person that is given **faith**. This is *a special faith to trust God, despite the circumstances*. Only the Spirit of God can point us to Jesus Christ in truly troubling times and help us to trust Him, instead of the things of this world!

Fourth (**v.10**), we see a person that can **discern the spirits**. This is *a special discernment given to a believer, where they can judge Truth from error, when they hear the preaching or teaching of God's Word* (**I John 4:1-3**).

Fifth (**Romans 12:6**), we see a person that **prophesies**. The job of a prophet was not simply to foretell the future (**I Corinthians 12:10**), but also to forth-tell the scriptures. The foretelling duty of the prophet

has since passed, because Scripture is complete, but the forth-telling duty is still needed today. It takes a special work of the Spirit to help a person *put forth the scriptures in a way that others can understand and apply*. Instead of calling these men prophets, we call them preachers today (**Romans 10:14**).

Sixth (**Romans 12:7**), we see a person that **ministers**. The word used for *ministry* is the same word used for *deacon*, which means *servant*. It takes a special work of the Spirit to help someone to have the humility to be content to serve and assist, instead of being in the limelight.

This is but half of the list of spiritual gifts. There are many more yet to come! What gift do you think that God has given you to serve Him with? If you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, He has given you something, and will reveal it to you, if you develop a relationship with Him. If you know your spiritual gift(s), are you utilizing them in a local, Bible-believing church? God has given you that gift to do just that.

We are a church that helps people to cultivate a relationship with the God of Heaven and teaches them to use their spiritual gifts for God's glory. If you desire these things, we encourage you to drop by for one of our services, or drop by the pastor's house for a visit. Everyone is welcome and will be welcomed with the love of Christ!

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