

Christian Life Foundation Course

Session 3 – The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

Last time – Growing our relationship with God – James 4:8 – Draw near to God...

How we draw near to God - well-known spiritual disciplines...

Prayer

Fasting

Bible Study

Worship

Ordained Sacraments

How God responds and draws near to us (an anthropathism – God is omnipresent)

Through His Word

By His Spirit

Tonight – God’s Spirit and His role in our personal relationship with Him

Frankly – The Holy Spirit is often misunderstood and abused – particularly tongues

Highly Recommended - <https://www.ccpacifichills.org/messages/> - Browse series – Basic Theology

Excellent teaching about the Holy Spirit

Nature and Character of the Holy Spirit

Coequal facet of triune God

Genesis 1:1-2 – ...the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Deuteronomy 6:4 – Hear O Israel...

We take on faith knowing we can’t fully grasp

The Holy Spirit is a **PERSON**, not a thing - e.g., can be grieved (anthropathism)

The Holy Spirit has been active in the universe since before the beginning.

Jesus’ Promise of the Holy Spirit

Context – The upper room on the night of Jesus’ betrayal

John 14:15-17

John 16:5-15

παράκλητος *paraklētōs*

Helper – also translated advocate and comforter

summoned, called to one's side, esp. called to one's aid

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Holy Spirit's Relationship with All People

“With” **everyone** – John 14:17 - *παρά para*

God (the Spirit) is omnipresent

John 16:8-10 – Clearly the conviction of the Spirit is for **ALL** the world

John 6:44 – No one can come to me...

God's Spirit does the work of the Father to draw people – John 6:63

Holy Spirit's Indwelling of Christians

John 14:17 – ...will be **in** you

Question – When did the Holy Spirit indwell the (11) apostles?

John 20:19-23 – Resurrected Christ appears in upper room “Receive the Holy Spirit

God's Spirit indwells **ALL** who have trusted in Jesus for salvation, **ONLY** them

Let **no one** tell you you're not saved if you haven't manifested spiritual gift X (tongues)

God's Spirit within us is God's surety of the promise of our redemption

Ephesians 1:13-14

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Most misunderstood and misrepresented aspect of our relationship with God's Spirit.

God's Spirit comes over someone in power for His glorification and for His own purposes.

Acts 2:1-4 – Manifestation of tongues

Proof text for those who say you're not saved unless you speak in tongues

John 20:19-23 is the proof text against this idea – “Receive the Holy Spirit”

Not just for believers

1 Samuel 19:20-24 – Is Saul among the prophets?

Luke 3:21-22 – Jesus' baptism

Not a one-shot deal

John certainly present at Pentecost

John given Revelation visions by the Holy Spirit over 50 years later – Revelation 1:9-10

We need to pray earnestly and frequently for a new overflowing of God's Spirit to **HIS** glory.

Luke 11:9-13 – If you then who are evil...

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Spiritual Gifts

God's indwelling Spirit endows believers with various gifts

For the edification of the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:12

As signs for the conviction of the lost – be careful about that word conviction

To draw us closer to Him

May be a re-direction and re-focus of talents we had BC (also gifts of God)

Endowment of gifts is fluid, not static

Managed by God's Spirit for the benefit of all and for His own glorification

Some manifested throughout our lives

Some for a season

Some for a single instance

Given to serve specific needs within the body and in the broader world

Paul gives some lists of spiritual gifts without defining them

Repeated analogy of the Church as a body with multiple essential parts

Lists are not identical but have some overlap

1 Corinthians 12 – Evidently a response to questions asked by the Corinthian church

Possibly manifestations had been causing divisions and jealousies among them

Possibly Corinthians were curious about manifestations through Paul, not seen in church

Ephesians 4:11 – roles within the body

Romans 12:3-8 – Paul encourages us to make maximum use of our gifts in humility

Word of Knowledge

1 Corinthians 12:8

naturally or supernaturally learned

spoken or written to another at an ordained time or times

Word of Wisdom

1 Corinthians 12:8

Application of knowledge to life of the Body

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Faith

1 Corinthians 12:9

πίστις *pistis* – conviction of the truth, fidelity

Healings

1 Corinthians 12:9, 28, & 30

Notice the plural

Many can testify to miraculous healings

Consistency in healing “on demand” unheard of

Many charlatans take advantage of faith in others to give this gift a bad reputation

Miracles

1 Corinthians 12:10 & 28-29

δύναμις *dynamis* – power, strength, ability

Prophecy

1 Corinthians 12:10 & 28, Ephesians 4:11, Romans 12:6

προφητεία *prophēteia* – a discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God, whether by reproof and admonishing the wicked, or comforting the afflicted, or revealing things hidden; esp. by foretelling future events

Essentially – being the voice of God

Discerning Spirits

1 Corinthians 12:10

Critically important – protects the Body from spiritual attack

Teaching

1 Corinthians 12:28-29, Romans 12:7, Ephesians 4:11

God’s Word

Other life knowledge/skills needed in the Body

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Evangelism/Apostleship

1 Corinthians 12:28-29, Ephesians 4:11

All are called to preach the Gospel

Your testimony is unassailable

Some are particularly gifted

Some are sent out on particular missions

Helping/Service

1 Corinthians 12:28, Romans 12:7

Not spectacular but essential to the health of the body

Everyone can help and serve – some particularly gifted

Leadership/Pastoring

Romans 12:8, Ephesians 4:11

This is a calling – can't be faked or willed by ourselves.

Begg – If you can do ANYTHING else, do it!

Administration

1 Corinthians 12:28

Often leaders have a vision, but not practical organizing abilities to “git ‘er done”

Exhortation

Romans 12:8

παράκλησις *paraklēsis* – a calling near especially for help

encouragement, comfort, consolation

but also admonition – calling to repentance in love

discipline is an act of love and care

Giving (contribution)

Romans 12:8

Time, effort, finances

Mercy (compassion)

Romans 12:8

Some have it. Some just plain don't

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Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues

1 Corinthians 12:10, 28, & 30, 1 Corinthians 13

Privately in prayer without interpretation

Romans 8:26

Publicly as sign to unbelievers – must be understood by them

Acts 2 & 10:46

In church for edification of the Body

ALWAYS with interpretation

Spectacular gift like healings – often abused and misunderstood

Detailed instructions on orderly use

1 Corinthians 14 – esp. 1 Corinthians 14:39-40

QUESTION – Are these lists exhaustive? Are there other gifts not listed?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1 – 13:3 entirely

1 Corinthians 12:28-30 – Gifts are individual, not universal

God's Spirit knows our needs – individually and as a Body

No one has all gifts all the time

No gift given to everyone

REMINDER – The purpose of spiritual gifts

Edify the Body of Christ

Signs to unbelievers

The key here is 1 Corinthians 12:31

SO MUCK IN

Matthew 9:36-38 – workers are few