

Remnant Life Church

July 16, 2023

The Holy Spirit

Pt 6

The Lists of the Gifts

I Cor 12:1-11

- Why do we give and receive gifts?
- Gifts are always positive never negative
- A true gift presents not only why the gift is given but the purpose of the gift

Are these gifts still important to us today?

The gifts of the Holy Spirit were given by God to His children because He loves us

- They are for edification and exhortation – IOW to build each other up through encouragement
- They are given to bring comfort as we recognize and witness the power of God
- And they are to reveal the living God to those who do not know Him so that they might be saved

What these gifts represent, and how they are given, are through the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian

- Jesus taught in especially strong terms the work of the Holy Spirit in a person's life
 - He taught that it was essential in both conversion and regeneration
 - To understand these two words is important to recognize how they are linked to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives
- Conversion is the heart of the individual turning to God
 - Conversion consists of both a negative and positive element
 - The negative is the abandonment of sin (the great negative of our nature)
 - The positive is faith and our acceptance of the work of Jesus Christ to save us from our sins
 - Jesus spoke of this often but most especially as recorded by the Apostle in **John 16:8-11**
 - *When He (the Holy Spirit) comes, He will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.*
 - Jesus is saying that without the Holy Spirit there can be no conversion
- Regeneration is the miraculous transformation of the individual and the change from what he/she was to someone brand new through the spiritual energy of the Holy Spirit's presence
 - Look at what Jesus said to Nicodemus in **John 3:3, 5-6**

- *Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”*
Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.”
- Clearly regeneration is a supernatural occurrence, and the Holy Spirit is the force that produces it
 - The flesh – human effort – is incapable of effecting this transformation
 - We are not even capable of fully comprehending what takes place in our human intellect
 - Jesus said that the work of the Holy Spirit is like the blowing of the wind
 - **John 3:8** - *The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.*

But the work of the Holy Spirit is not finished when a person becomes a believer, in fact it is just getting started

- He continues to work in our lives in other ways
 - First by Empowering
 - Jesus told the disciples, likely to their disbelief, that they would do even greater things than He did
 - **John 14:12** - *Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*
 - But first, He had to leave, so that the Holy Spirit could come
 - **John 16:7** - *But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate (the Holy Spirit) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.*
 - This had to be unbelievable to the disciples who were, by now, painfully aware of their shortcomings and lack of faith
 - But in **Acts 2** Peter stood and addressed the large crowd and 3000 people put their faith in Jesus
 - How? By the empowerment of the Holy Spirit
 - That same power is available for you today
 - Second, He continues to work in our lives by indwelling and illuminating our lives
 - The Holy Spirit gets to the very center of our emotions and thinking to lead us into all truth – Jesus
 - **John 16:13-14** - *But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify Me because it is from Me that He will receive what He will make known to you.*

- Third, the Holy Spirit is also a teacher
 - We recognize this as Jesus continues to explain the Holy Spirit's role
 - **John 14:26** - *But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*
 - What is so very important to recognize is that the role of the Holy Spirit was not just for the first-generation disciples but for us today, over 2000 years later, helping us to better understand and apply the Holy Scriptures to our lives.

- Yet we make this more difficult by the way many treat the very place where this is trained and honed
- There are many believers today who claim church has no value for them
 - Those who embrace this thinking and use it to justify their absence are playing right into the enemy's hands
 - I know several former pastors who are now in this group
 - They present this thinking as if somehow, they have moved beyond the need for church
 - They even go so far as to say that God is ministering to them and others like them in a much "deeper" way by staying out of church
 - That is nonsense and goes against what the Bible says
 - **Heb 10:24-25** *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another...*
 - It is in the fellowship of this gathering, the time of worship, the teaching presented, and the encouragement and love for one another that the work of the Holy Spirit is developed, nurtured, and then taken to be shown to those in your life and sphere of influence.
 - Our flesh is always in contention with our Spirit

- On his way home from a mission over Afghanistan, a Navy pilot realized he was beginning to experience a severe case of vertigo (a dizzy, confused state of mind caused by the inner ear). His senses were confused. The biggest was his sense of flight which can be deadly when landing on an aircraft carrier deck at night in the middle of the Persian Gulf. He thought his plane was flying upright but when he looked at the instruments they told him that he was flying upside down. Everything he did was backward according to the instruments but in his mind they were correct. He could follow what he thought was right in his mind or he could depend on his instruments. He said that overriding what he felt was right was the hardest thing to do. The struggle that took place in his mind was overwhelming to him. You can figure out what he depended on because he lived to tell the story. Our thinking and reasoning can be the hardest thing to overcome even when we feel we are right. However, it is our relationship with God that will give us the true meaning of what is right and what is wrong. Our knowledge of Biblical principles, our understanding of what they mean in proper context, and our understanding as led by God through the

Holy Spirit and His freedoms should be what dictate, govern, and determine the actions of our life.

- These actions are seen in the spiritual gifts

There are 4 lists of spiritual gifts found in the NT

- Three are authored by Paul and one by Peter
- The lists are similar but not identical

The first list is in **Romans 12:6-8**

- Prophecy; service; teaching; encouraging and comforting others; giving; leading or giving aide; acts of mercy

The second list is found in **I Cor 12:4-11**

- Wisdom; knowledge; faith; healing; working miracles; prophecy; the distinguishing of spirits; speaking in tongues; interpretation of tongues

The third list is in **Eph 4:11**

- Also known as the 5 offices of ministry
- Apostles; prophets; evangelists; pastors; teachers

The fourth list is in **I Peter 4:11**

- Public speaking or preaching; service to others

We are going to be examining many of these in the weeks to come

- First, to hopefully clear up some misconceptions as to what they are and what they are not.
- And then second, to see how they are effective today for the good of the church, the good of the individual and the good of the Kingdom