Discover Your Gifts

There are many gifts, but only 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit according 1 Cor.12:1-11

There is so much ignorance these days about God's gifts.

Paul wrote these words in 1 Cor. 12:1

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren,

I would not have you ignorant"

If there was ever a time that the Church needed God's Holy Spirit, it is today.

We must desire for the Spirit to come on us just as He came as a dove on Jesus when He was baptised in the Jordan River.

It is striking to notice that the Holy Spirit is compared to a dove.

We read in Luke 3 v. 22

"And the Holy Spirit descended on Him (Jesus) in bodily form like a dove."

Why is the Holy Spirit compared to a dove?

A dove is very sensitive.

We can grieve the Holy Spirit – **Eph. 4 v. 30**The Amplified Bible Translation: "and do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, do not offend, or vex (tease) or sadden Him"

Eph. 4:25 to 29 tells us what grieves the Spirit.

A dove has a fixed direction.

Think of carrier pigeons and how they find their way back home.

The Holy Spirit will always give you direction! Believe that for those in your family who have lost their spiritual direction.

A dove has no gall bladder!

There is no bitterness in God!
The Greek word for bitterness is

"pikros"

Meaning: "to cut or to stab"

If someone "cut and stab" others with their mouth there is bitterness in their hearts!!

A dove has perfect balance in its wings.

Did you know that the dove has equal numbers of flight feathers in each wing?

The Holy Spirit therefore brings a perfect balance between gifts and fruits in the Church.

The High Priest's robe: Exodus 28:31 to 35

At the bottom of his robe there were bells and pomegranates

The bells that made a noise represent the **gifts** and the pomegranates represent **fruit**.

If you seek the Gifts — also seek the Fruit!

The noise that the bells made while the priest moved continuously was an indication that he was alive.

Congregations where the gifts are not working maybe busy dying!

Let us choose life by stirring up the gifts!

2 Timothy 1 verse 6

You "stir up" your gift by doing the following:

(1) Pray about your Gift(2) Learn more about your Gift(3) Make yourself available for God

Write the gifts (1 Cor. 12) opposite the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22)

And then you will see that there is a perfect balance between GIFTS AND FRUIT

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A Word of Wisdom

The gift of a <u>Word of Wisdom</u> is something that can only be given by the Holy Spirit to a person. Whilst natural wisdom has facts to its disposal the gift of the word of wisdom relies on a direct revelation from God.

A Word of Knowledge

It is a gift of a <u>Word</u> of Knowledge and as in the first gift it only works when it is spoken.

The purpose for a Word of Knowledge

It warns Gods children against their enemies.

2 Kings 6: 8 to 12

It helps us to know Gods will for our lives.

Acts 9: 11 and 12

A word of knowledge helps in prevailing prayer

When God gives you knowledge about someone, please pray right there!!

A word of knowledge reveals things in people's lives

Through this gift Nathan the prophet helped David to confess his sins before God.

The Gift of Faith

We all have faith. (Romans 12 v. 3)

It is impossible to please God
without faith. (Hebrews 11 v. 6)

Gifts of Healing

1 Corinthians 12 v. 9

The purpose of this gift

- (1) To glorify God (Acts 3 v. 1 to 9)
- (2) To destroy the works of the devil (Acts 10:38; Luke 13:10 - 17)
- (3) To confirm the Gospel (Mark 16:20)

Healing will draw people to God! This happened through the ages!

Working of Miracles

Natural laws change when this Gift works (2 Kings 6:1 to 7)

Demons are driven out by this Gift (Matt 17:20 Acts 16:16-18)

The dead are raised by the working of miracles
Tabitha(Dorcas) Acts 9:30-42
Eutychus Acts 20:7-12

Prophecy

We find in 1 Corinthians 14 v. 29 to 32 how the gift of prophecy should work in the church.

An example in the Bible: Acts 11 v. 28

Paul shows us the following:

That we must desire to prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14: 31 and 39

How do you understand 1 Cor. 14:3?

Prophecy can be judged – 1 Cor. 14:29

Thus prophecy may never take the place of God's word.

Discernment of spirits

Note: It is not discerning people but spirits. It is not reading people's minds.

We deal with spirits in the air.

Ephesians 6 v. 12

Fear can be a spirit!

(2 Timothy 1 v. 7)

Lies are a spirit!

(1 Kings 22 v. 19 to 23;

2 Thessalonians 2: 9 to 12)

Uncleanness is a spirit! (Luke 4 v. 33 to 35;

Acts 5 v. 16; Mark 5 v. 2; Luke 9 v. 42).

Sickness can also be a spirit!

(Luke 13 v. 11 to 16)

Rebellion is a spirit.

(1 Samuel 15 v. 23)

The most sickness is not a "spirit"

Different kinds of tongues

But why tongues... What value do strange tongues have?

1 Corinthians 14 v. 2

It is so wonderful to pray in a strange tongue. The devil does not understand what you pray 1 Corinthians 14 v. 4: "he who speaks in a tongue edifies himself"

Also read: 1 Cor., 14:4

Interpretation of tongues

This is not the natural ability to understand unknown languages and to explain them, but in a supernatural way the Holy Spirit gives the interpretation of a tongue that is spoken.

This interpretation can be revealed IN DIFFERENT WAYS TO SOMEONE IN THE CONGREGATION FOR EXAMPLE:

By a vision: While someone is speaking in tongues the person himself or someone else can receive a revelation by means of a vision of the interpretation of the tongue.

By the revelation of the thoughts expressed in the strange tongue, and then conveying them in understandable words.

Sometimes someone, moved by the Spirit, can have an urge to speak to the congregation in understandable words while the other person is speaking in tongues. Therefore he doesn't see a vision and thoughts are not revealed to him.

These 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit have been given to the Church to glorify His Name.

Would it not be wonderful if these gifts were present in every congregation?

DID YOU KNOW: God wants to use you?

1 Timothy 4 v. 14 "Do not neglect the gift that is in you ..."

2 Timothy 1 v. 6 and 7 "Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind."