



LESSON 53

Foundations Curriculum

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

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Introduction

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

In this fifty-third lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, our goal is to speak about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, addressing the purpose and the circumstances under which they were given. We will not speak in detail about each one of them, since they will be addressed one by one further ahead. At this point, we want to show the importance of the manifestation of the gifts in our lives, and how we, as Christians, should understand this subject — and pursue it with zeal.

1) The Gifts of the Holy Spirit Being Manifested in Specific Services

It is possible to find in the New Testament several accounts of the manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit in the most diverse people, areas, and functions.

We have a natural tendency to think that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are recorded only in the letter of 1 Corinthians 12. But that is not so. There we find the record of an important part of the spiritual gifts, but it is not the complete list.

*But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.
Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and
gave gifts to men."*

Ephesians 4:7–8 (NKJV)

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and
some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,
for the edifying of the body of Christ,*

Ephesians 4:11–12 (NKJV)

In this case, the gifts were manifested in specific, chosen men, so that they would serve the church for a specific purpose.

He gave gifts to men, who became “gifted men.” God gives these gifts so that they may give it back to the church, in daily service, in edification, in teaching.

Among the many important things about this service (the gifts), we can highlight two:

1.1 These “gifted men” exist to serve the body, leading this body, which is the church, to reach His own fullness. The biblical text says, “till we all come.” They serve to cooperate with this journey and this building up.

1.2 These gifts, manifested in these ministries, are not an end in themselves. They are means, tools that God uses to bless His beloved church, leading her to experience a practical Christian life in her day-to-day walk.

In summary, there is a choosing of specific men for the fulfillment of a specific function.

2) The Gifts Are Given So That We May Be Stewards of the Manifold Grace of God

In other words, as stewards, those who receive these specific gifts are responsible to supply the right portion (of what they have received).

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10–11 (NKJV)

We must serve one another according to the gift received, according to the need of each one. Serving is the ultimate purpose of the gifts; it is a way of fulfilling the purpose of God.

Here we can see the gifts as a way of making known the manifold grace of God. And to what end? To serve and bless the body, which is His beloved church.

SPEAKING AND SERVING are being presented as gifts that can glorify God.

And as we are used in these gifts, we can see the glory of God being manifested on the earth — through the exercise of these gifts, speaking and serving as He has given to us.

3) Gifts are to Show the Beauty of Plurality in the Manifestation of the Different Graces

Through the manifestation of the gifts, we can see the diversity of grace in the lives of the brothers and sisters.

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Romans 12:3 (NKJV)

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Romans 12:6–8 (NKJV)

The Holy Spirit shows all His greatness and diversity in the different manifestations given, to serve as blessing and praise to the Lord.

Each one manifesting according to the purpose for which it was created: like the human body, which has a hand, a foot, a head, a torso — each organ with a determined function, and so on. Here there is not only a plurality of members, but also diversity of grace among the members.

The gifts are tools given to the various members of the Body, according to the calling of Jesus, so that they may carry out their service in a special way.

All of us should prophesy, but there are those who manifest this gift in a special way.

All of us should serve, but there are servants who stand out because of this gift. It is something natural, ordinary, in the way they act.

All of us should be full of the Word of Christ and therefore share it with one another; but there are some who receive the gift in such a way that, when they teach, it is something different — a different grace is visible there.

All of us should exhort (speak in a way that produces encouragement), but there are brothers and sisters who have a special grace. When they draw near to us, they open their mouths, and grace for encouragement pours out beyond measure.

All have the duty to contribute, to be generous, but there are brothers and sisters who have an unmeasured liberality. They contribute with excessive generosity.

All must show mercy, but there are brothers and sisters who have a measure of mercy that can only be explained supernaturally. The level of mercy they manifest in their conduct is different.

4) Gifts and Practices in the Daily Life of the Church (and Where This Sequence of Gifts Comes Together to Build Up)

We need to read chapters 12, 13, and 14 of 1 Corinthians.

With this sequence, we can observe not only this list of gifts; we will also see their practice, adjustments, corrections, and guidance in their use.

Chapter 13 is at the heart of this presentation. It is important, since everything is moved by love — every practice must be governed by love. In this environment of love, there is no room for human glory, for carnality, for self-sufficiency, for disputes over who is most important.

Concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

1 Corinthians 12:1 (NKJV)

The apostle's desire is that we not be ignorant, without knowledge, without understanding.

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1 Corinthians 12:4–7 (NKJV)

This text helps us demystify the gifts. How simple it is for us to be used as vessels through which the gifts of the Spirit flow!

The gifts are diverse, but the Spirit is the same.

Diversity of services, but the Lord is the same.

Diversity of activities, but it is the same God who works ALL in ALL.

The manifestation of the Spirit is given to EACH ONE.

If we already have the Spirit, then it will be easy for the gifts to flow through our lives. If we have the Lord, it will be easy for us to be used in the service of the house of God. We have the God who works all things, and THIS GOD wants to work ALL in ALL. No one is left out; everyone is a vessel that God, through the Spirit, wants to use.

The manifestation of the Spirit is given to EACH ONE. Hallelujah! No one was left out!

The gifts are not the merit of man. Their purpose is what is profitable to the church and to the glory of God.

for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:8–11 (NKJV)

Our purpose, at this point, is not to study each one of these gifts. We will do that in lessons ahead.

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

1 Corinthians 12:11 (NKJV)

It is worth underlining: "... distributing to each one individually, as He wills."

5) How Should We Behave in Light of This Truth?

We must be filled with faith and take practical action in response to this teaching:

1. Pursue the spiritual gifts with zeal.

Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:1 (NKJV)

2. Desire the spiritual gifts and seek to grow in them. There is the possibility of progress, of growing in the gifts.

Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.

1 Corinthians 14:12 (NKJV)

3. Do not be negligent.

Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

1 Timothy 4:14 (NKJV)

4. Stir up the gift of God.

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

2 Timothy 1:6 (NKJV)

5. Let no gift be lacking among us.

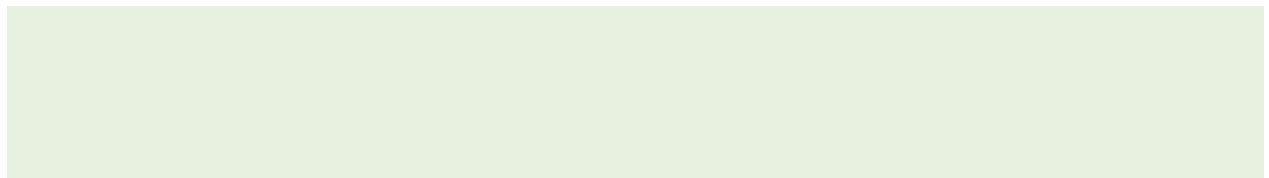
that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:5–8 (NKJV)

All the gifts are available in the hands of the Holy Spirit, and HE wants to manifest His gifts in the life of the church — in your life and in mine.

CONCLUSION

In this fifty-third lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we learned about the gifts of the Spirit in the specific distribution poured out by God. Some for serving, others for teaching, others for showing mercy or being a great giver of resources. Whatever the case, God pours out His gifts on the church as a whole — after all, everyone has the Holy Spirit — but it was His to distribute certain specific gifts that have nothing to do with human merit or talent. All are vessels in the hand of God. It is simply the manifold will of God, poured out and distributed in a specific way with the purpose of building up His church.



CONSIDER CAREFULLY

- 01** Had you already noticed the abundance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit described in the Word of God?
- 02** In light of what you learned today, what practical attitude or attitudes should you take?
- 03** Make a list of the gifts of the Spirit that we studied today and then look at your own life: which gifts are already flowing in you? do any of them need to be stirred up within you?
- 04** Do you pursue the gifts of the Spirit with zeal?
- 05** Everyone is included in the manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Did you include yourself, and did you see the need to seek to let the gifts flow through you?

*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)

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