

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR THE MONTHS: AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2016

# **What the Bible Says About the Gifts of the Holy Spirit** (1 Peter 4:10-11)

**Sundays, August 7, 14, 2016**

God is the great giver. He has given us his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior, Teacher, Friend, Lord, and Helper. God has also given us the Holy Spirit to dwell within us and enable us to do God's work. The Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost to accomplish a number of significant purposes. He came to identify Jesus Christ as the risen, living Lord and Messiah. He was given to unite the followers of Christ into a living body in which Christ could dwell and continue His work of redemption in the world. The Holy Spirit was given to identify the church to the Jewish people as the new Israel through whom God would carry forward His eternal redemptive purpose. He was given to enable and to empower the church to succeed in preaching the gospel to the ends of the earth. He was given to impart and to plant the confession "Jesus Christ is Lord" at the very center of every person's being. The Holy Spirit was given to produce within each believer the nature and character and personality of Jesus Christ as He is permitted to produce his fruit.

While the Holy Spirit is the gift of God to each believer, the Scripture teaches us that the Holy Spirit imparts spiritual gifts to every member of the church that each one might fulfill the function God has for him.

### **I. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit.**

References to the variety of gifts of the Holy Spirit for ministering in the church and through the church to the world are listed in several different books of the New Testament.

A. Paul listed some of the gifts of the Spirit in his letter to the church at Rome. (Romans 12:3-8).

B. One of the major sections on the gifts of the Spirit is chapters 12-14 of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. In this passage, Paul is seeking to deal with a problem that was dividing the church, an exaggerated emphasis on the value and use of the gift of speaking in tongues and a lack of emphasis on love as the supreme gift of the spirit.

C. In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul lists more gifts of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:11-12).

## **Sundays, August 21, 28, 2016**

### **II. The Nature of Gifts of the Spirit.**

A. The gifts of the Spirit are all “grace gifts.” They are bestowed by the Holy Spirit, rather than merited or earned for outstanding service. They may take the form of talents, but in reality they are gifts from the Holy Spirit.

B. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are His sovereign gifts. “All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He gives them to each one, just as he determines” (1 Corinthians 12:11).

C. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are functional gifts. The gifts of the Spirit are not like decorative ornaments to be worn or boxes of candy to be enjoyed. Rather, they enable believers to minister as the body of Christ and are intended to produce harmony and effectiveness in service (1 Corinthians 14:5).

## **Sundays, September 4, 11, 2016**

A. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are primarily for the congregation, that is for the good of the church (1 Corinthians 14:12). This is not to imply that the individual is not edified or built up by receiving a gift from the Holy Spirit.

B. To every believer, there is given a gift from the Holy Spirit. “God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out when you have faith that God is speaking through you” (Romans 12:6 NIV). So far as we can observe, the scriptures teach that each believer has received at least one gift from the Holy Spirit.

### **III. Discovering and using your Spiritual Gift.**

How are we to be certain concerning our Spiritual gifts? Is there a way by which we can discover our spiritual gifts?

A. We should study the scriptural lists of the gifts of the Spirit and then examine ourselves, sincerely and honestly, to see if we have some talent, gift, or inclination that would indicate that God has placed upon us the blessing and the burden of a particular gift.

## Sundays, September 18, 25, 2016

A. We should experiment in acts of faith in the direction we feel led, trusting the Holy Spirit for guidance. We can do this by identifying needs around us that we believe we can meet and then do what we can to meet those needs. We may discover that we have the gift after we have met a particular need.

B. We should examine our spiritual satisfactions. If we get a particular joy out of doing a certain type of Christian service, it could be that we are working in the area in which the Holy Spirit has given us a gift.

C. We should evaluate our effectiveness in service. Certainly if we cannot carry a tune, we do not have the gift of singing solos or being a part of a choir. The gifts of the Spirit are for the building up of the church. If what we attempt to do does not build up the church, then that's probably not an area in which we have a gift.

D. Recognize the affirmations of other believers. Many times others who are more mature in the faith will recognize your gifts before you do. When others commend you for a service that is rendered, they may be giving you a clue concerning your gift.

### Conclusion:

God has given to us the gift of His Son. Have you received this gift in your heart? Have you let Him become your Savior, Teacher, Friend, and Helper?

If you have received His Son, Jesus Christ, as your Savior, you have also received the gift of His Holy Spirit. When we become the children of God, God sends the Spirit of His Son into our hearts (Galatians 4:6).

If you have received God's Son and Spirit, then there is a gift or gifts that the Holy Spirit has given to you in order that you might be a living, vital, functioning part of the body of Christ. May God bless each of you and use you greatly as you recognize and respond to the gift or gifts the Holy Spirit has given you for ministering in the world.