

Holy Spirit - Part 2

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I. Introduction.

- A. The controversy concerning the gifts.
- B. Ground rules.
 - 1. One cannot interpret the Bible by experience.
 - 2. One must interpret experience by the Bible.
 - 3. One must examine all the texts. (1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 4)
 - 4. There are few texts concerning the gifts.
- C. Pretending that we do not have any gifts is not humility and dishonors the Lord.
- D. Christianity is communal - it is not a one man show.

III. The gifts of the Spirit.

- A. These are supernatural enablings - not talents - to equip for the service of the body of Christ.
- B. The gifts are functional. They are not ends in and of themselves.
- C. There are differing gifts. It is dangerous to compare ourselves because of this.
- D. The gifts are other-centered for the common good. (1 Peter 4:10)
- E. The Holy Spirit is in the church today and has all the gifts; therefore, there is no reason to assume that the gifts have ceased besides apostleship.
- F. Each person has some gift. The gifts differ. Comparison and intolerance of others is folly because of this.
- G. The gifts may be coveted and desired but not demanded. God gives them as He wills.
- H. The possession of the gifts is not evidence of spirituality or being filled with the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 1:3)
- I. The possession of the gifts does not necessarily mean that a person is a Christian. (Matthew 7:21-24)
- J. Counterfeit or abuse does not rule out use.

IV. How one can know what his gift is.

- A. Do not get preoccupied with what your gift is.

B. Be preoccupied with the Giver.

C. Find out what God wants you to do, and He will equip you with the gifts or gift you need to accomplish the task. Ask for the task.

V. Tongues.

A. This gift was being abused in the early church. The present day experience seems to parallel this use and abuse.

B. There is an error in exclusivist thinking.

C. Two places of reference: Acts 2, 8, 10, 19, 1 Corinthians 12-14.

1. There is a difference between the tongues of Acts 2 and 1 Corinthians 14.

2. In Acts 2 they were understood languages and in 1 Corinthians 14 no one understood.

3. In Acts 2 they spoke to men and in 1 Corinthians 14 they spoke to God.

4. In Acts 2 there was no interpreter needed unlike in 1 Corinthians 14.

5. In Acts 2 all spoke in tongues, whereas in 1 Corinthians 12 only a few spoke.

D. 1 Corinthians 14:20-23.

1. In Acts 2 the tongues were a sign that Jesus had been glorified.

2. In Corinthians the tongue was for a believer edifying himself.

3. There are various kinds of tongues: of men and of angels.

4. The latter is a nonlinguistic expression of praise or prayer in which the human mind is bypassed but the human spirit is aware of a worshipful experience of a communion with God.

5. Some have said this is an aid to prayer for those unable to express themselves in their native tongue.

6. The speaker would not forbade tongues in private because it is a gift, Paul said he wanted believers to do this, and Paul thanked God that he spoke in tongues more than all of the believers.

7. Guidelines.

a. Not all are supposed to have this gift. (1 Corinthians 12:29)

b. Since it is sovereignly given by God it is not to be induced.

c. It is a lower gift - so prophecy and understandable words are better. (1 Corinthians 14:18-19)

- d. There should be order - speaking should only occur if there is an interpreter.
- e. Women should keep silent.
- f. Exclusivism must be avoided since this can be divisive.
- g. Speaking should not be forbade.
- h. Love is to remain chief. This is slow to lose patience, seeking to be constructive, not touchy, not keeping account of evil and knowing no end to endurance, trust and hope. It is the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen.

Application questions

1. What is a proper view to hold concerning the gifts of the Spirit? Why is it important to not make the gifts the heart of any ministry?

2. Why is having the gifts not necessarily evidence of a Christian's spirituality?

3. What is your belief about the issue of tongues? How would you approach someone who disagrees with you in light of this message?
