

# ZIMBABWE – BULAWAYO FRIDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 2010

## SEMINAR - THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### 1) TRUTHS WE ARE IN AGREEMENT ABOUT –

**The Holy Spirit is a Person.** The Holy Spirit is not a vague influence or a mystic idea. He is a Person. He is the third member of the Trinity.

**The Fullness of the Holy Spirit.** The Bible speaks about the fullness of the Holy Spirit. This was an experience that the church in Acts experienced.

**The Fullness of the Holy Spirit and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit is for today.** If we look at church history, we find that the fullness of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit have never ceased, as some would teach. But more importantly, there are no scriptures in the New Testament that tell us that both the fullness of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit will stop before Jesus returns.

Petts – “Through the gifts of the Spirit the church of Jesus Christ has available to it the miracle-working power of the true and living God.”

Gordon – “Without the gifts we live and function at the level of our natural abilities, talents and strength. With the gifts of the Spirit we function at the level of God’s ability and insight.”

### 2) WHAT SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE MENTIONED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT –

- a. Ephesians 4:1-13
- b. Romans 12:4-8
- c. 1 Corinthians 12:1-9

We will be focusing on the gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12. Before we look further at these gifts, there is a question to resolve – are these gifts given permanently to an individual or are they given as the need arises? (see Romans 11:29)

### 3) THE GIFTS OF I CORINTHIANS 12

The fullness of the Holy Spirit is not an end in itself. In fact it’s just a beginning. It’s a gateway through which we enter into an entirely new realm – the supernatural. It is God’s will that we go on and receive the spiritual gifts of 1 Corinthians 12. The correct understanding of 1 Corinthians 12:13 are that we have been filled with the Holy Spirit for the benefit of the body of Christ.

These nine gifts have been grouped in various ways. One way is as follows –

Revelation \_\_\_\_\_

Power \_\_\_\_\_

Inspiration \_\_\_\_\_

There are a few general things to say about the gifts of the Holy Spirit before we come to look at each gift individually.

#### a) Their Nature

- They are gifts – charismata – from God and given by grace not according to merit or educational qualifications – see 1 Corinthians 12:4.
- They are spiritual – they come from the Holy Spirit Himself. They are not natural talents but are supernatural endowments from the Spirit - see 1 Corinthians 12:1.
- They are manifestations – they are an outward display of the Holy Spirit at work within us - see 1 Corinthians 12:7.

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#### b) Their Origin

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth because (see 1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

- they were using the gifts badly and he needed to bring correction into the situation
- they also needed to be aware that not every spiritual manifestation comes from the Holy Spirit
- he wanted to give them a clear test to distinguish between the true and the false

#### c) Their Purpose

In Corinth the gifts were being used not for the building up of the local church. Paul writes to correct this and says clearly that the gifts are for the “common good” (see 1 Corinthians 12:7, 13; 14:5).

Remember also, that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are of great importance for evangelism. The gifts of the Holy Spirit will empower us to continue to do what Jesus began (see Mark 16:17-20; Acts 1:1; Hebrews 2:4).

Someone has described the gifts of the Holy Spirit as the tools to get the job done.

**Important question - did Jesus serve and minister under the Holy Spirit or out of His Divine attributes?**

#### d) Receiving Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are of great importance both for the building up of the local church and for evangelism. It is very important then to understand how spiritual gifts are received.

Gifts can be imparted directly by the Holy Spirit or through the Holy Spirit using someone - see Romans 1:11, 2 Timothy 1:6. But, in regard to the latter way, the gift is still determined by the Holy Spirit.

What else can we do to receive spiritual gifts?

A Right Attitude toward them – we need to understand what we are asking for. They are gifts that come as a result of God’s grace.

Right Actions – Paul tells us to pray. Also, it takes faith to exercise the gifts.

The Right Atmosphere – we are told not to quench or grieve the Holy Spirit. The atmosphere and the leadership of a local church can either kill or encourage the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

## 4) A DESCRIPTION OF THE GIFTS OF 1 CORINTHIANS 12

We are now going to spend some time thinking about each gift mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12.

#### a. Word of Wisdom

Selwyn Hughes – “A supernatural revelation showing how to resolve a given situation”

Life of Jesus - John 8:4-7

Early Church – Acts 9:10-17

#### b. Word of Knowledge

Selwyn Hughes - “A supernatural revelation given by the Holy Spirit in a given situation.”

Life of Jesus - John 4:17-18; Luke 22:34; Matthew 21:2-3

Early Church – Acts 5:3-5, 8-10

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#### c. Faith

Selwyn Hughes – “The supernatural ability to believe for the impossible.”

Life of Jesus - Mark 4:37-40 and John 11:41-44  
Early Church – Acts 3:1-11

#### d. Gifts of Healings

Selwyn Hughes – “A supernatural ability to bring God’s healing power to those who are sick.”

Life of Jesus – Mark 1:29-31; 3:1-5  
Early Church – Acts 8:6-7; 14:9-10

#### e. Working of Miracles

Selwyn Hughes – “The supernatural ability to suspend natural laws and to bring God’s power to bear upon situations where natural means fail.”

Life of Jesus – John 2:1-11 and Luke 9:16-17  
Early Church – Acts 6:8

#### f. Prophecy

Selwyn Hughes – “This is the ability to convey a special message from God which is in the language of both speaker and hearer.”

Life of Jesus – John 21:18  
Early Church – Acts 21:11

#### g. Discerning of Spirits

Selwyn Hughes – “The ability to discern the source of a supernatural manifestation.”

Life of Jesus – Luke 13:11-16 and John 8:44  
Early Church – Acts 13:6-12; 16:16-18

#### h. Different Kinds of Tongues

Selwyn Hughes – “This is the ability to speak in a language never learned.”

Life of Jesus – ???????  
Early Church – ???????

#### i. Interpretation of Tongues

Selwyn Hughes – “This is the ability to supernaturally interpret a message in tongues.”

Life of Jesus – ???????  
Early Church – ???????

## 5) THE DEVELOPING OF A SPIRITUAL GIFT

How can I develop my spiritual gift and encourage others with spiritual gifts?

- a. Keep being filled with the Holy Spirit
- b. Understand the particular purpose of your gift
- c. Grow in your love for people
- d. Wait on the Lord
- e. Speak in your new language
- f. Grow in faith

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- g. Fill your mind with the Word of God
- h. Be open to discipline
- i. You are to be a blessing
- j. Acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ in your life
- k. Practice Worship and Praise
- l. Live in harmony with the HOLY Spirit

### **6) THE USE OF THE GIFTS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE LOCAL CHURCH**

- Understanding what Paul is saying in 1 Corinthians 14:20-25.
- The Testing of Prophecy 1 Corinthians 14:29-37; 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21.
- The Local Church Service 1 Corinthians 14:26-33.
- Out on the Streets with Jesus.

### **7) THE PARTNERSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Cecil Cousen writes “The Holy Spirit and I are in business together, the King’s business.”

How does this partnership work? It is not a dictatorship – we have our part to play, and He has his part.

### **8) WHAT NEXT -**

For the Apostolic Church in Zimbabwe?

For you as a leader, involved in a local church in Zimbabwe?

For you as a born-again, Spirit-filled Christian?

#### **RESOURCES USED –**

Cecil Cousen – “The Gifts of the Holy Spirit”  
David Petts – “The Holy Spirit: An Introduction”  
Bruce Collins – “Prophecy”  
Bob Gordon – “Disciples of Jesus”  
Don Basham – “A Handbook on Tongues, Interpretation and Prophecy”  
David Pytches – “Come Holy Spirit”  
Gordon Fee – “The First Epistle to the Corinthians”  
Wayne Grudem – “The Gift of Prophecy”  
Selwyn Hughes – “Discovering Your Place in the Body of Christ.”