



In our last essay, we began our discussion on the gifts and workings of the Holy Spirit. In this second part of “The Holy Spirit,” we will review, briefly, some of those gifts and workings. Please, be reminded that this is simply a brief listing and a brief definition of some of the gifts and workings of the Holy Spirit. There is an unfathomable list of what the Holy Spirit does.

### **Some Examples and a brief description of these “gifts/ workings” in action, today**

Ephesians 4:11-12 - *“And he gave some, **apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...”*

It is important to note that the functions of the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor/teacher are not “positions” of authority as many denominations today have declared and proclaimed them to be. They are not necessarily positions of “title” but rather they are to be functions that certain people can and will work in as members of the Body of Christ. They are functions that are given and used by the Holy Spirit to aide in the growth of the Body of Christ until Jesus’ return.

#### Working in the gift of the apostolic – the role of an “apostle” in today’s world

The primary role of acting in the function or role of an apostle is that it is one who is to teach and testify of the Good News of Jesus throughout the world. The word “apostle” simply means – *special messenger*. The “apostle’s” main task is to be one who establishes a foundation of knowing and receiving Jesus to an unsaved region of this world and thereby, establishing a new Body of Christ, if possible, in that same region.

In brief, the spiritual gift of apostleship is the divine ability to go somewhere that has never heard the Good News of Jesus and birth new believers into the Kingdom. They are then used by the Holy Spirit to start and oversee the development of a new church or ministry in that area. It is a special ability God gives to someone to exercise general leadership or oversight of new ministries for a period of time, establish leaders and then they move on to establish new ministries in a different area.

Apostles were, and still are, responsible for preaching the gospel, baptizing converts, and organizing new local congregations. They have a special anointing from God that enables them to perform signs and wonders, such as healing the sick and casting out demons for the purpose of then telling them about salvation in and through Jesus. They then establish a place for them to gather and worship their new found God.

Yes, the world is getting “smaller” and most people throughout the world have heard the Good News concerning Jesus. This gifting of the apostle is not used as much because of that. Unfortunately, less are receiving or accepting the truth concerning Jesus. However, the role of the apostle is still vital in this lost and dying world. There are still some areas that need to hear of salvation who have never heard it before.

#### Working in the gift of the prophetic – the role of a “prophet” for today

The Greek word translated “prophesying” or “prophecy” means to “speak forth” or declare the divine will; to interpret the purposes of God; to make known in any way the truth of God which is designed to influence people to turn towards and live for God.

It is no longer used as it was in the Old Testament to declare how things will happen, although that can be a little portion of what the “prophetic” is today. We see this in the Book Revelation. The Apostle John writes the only “prophetic” book now in the New Testament which foretells what will happen in the future. The spiritual gift of prophecy as found in the Old Testament in the sense of receiving new revelations from God to be proclaimed to others, has really now ceased and stopped. Prophecy, in the Old Testament, had been used as the voice of God, to direct and point people to God and what He will do.

Prophecy in the New Testament, is now mainly used to declare the wonderful workings and ways of God. It is used to encourage and build up the believer in Christ. 1Corinthians 14:3 tells us that prophecy is now to be used (today) for the edification, exhortation, and comfort of people. The prophecies of today reveal, to a greater extent, what God’s Word already tells us about our God and who He is. That is what the prophet of today should be telling us. It is reaffirming and encouraging us to know who our God really is.

## Working in the gift of evangelism – the role of an “evangelist” in the church today

This is the ability to share the Good News (salvation) of Jesus Christ with those who have not heard it before or with those who have not yet made a decision for Christ. They are able to witness in such a compelling way that the hearer can decide to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. They work from a local Body and its area, today.

The Greek word for evangelist is “*euangelistēs*,” which means “one who brings good news.” It is the name given to the New Testament people who tell of salvation through Jesus who are not apostles. They are used in the local Body to witness to those in the local community, bringing the unsaved to Christ, and then encouraging them to come to their local Body to learn more of this new life in Jesus, the Messiah.

Evangelists are those who have the “*feet that bring good news*” of salvation to the lost. (Isaiah 52:7) They are given the unique gifting by the Holy Spirit to clearly and effectively communicate the Good News of salvation through Jesus to others. They are burdened in their hearts for the lost and will go out of their way to share the Gospel.

## Working in the gift of pastoring/ teaching - being a pastor (elder)/ teacher

The gift of “pastoring” is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to assume a long-term personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers. The term “pastor” or “pastoring” infers that one is to be a “shepherd over a flock.” In other words they are those who are to care for and teach the believers who are a part of the ministry or body that they are called to oversee. The term, “pastor,” is found only in the Book of Jeremiah and only once in the New Testament (Ephesians 4:11,12). They are really known and referred to as “elders” or “chief elders.”

Jesus is the role model of being a “Good Shepherd.” (John 10:11-16; Psalm 23) A shepherd is one who oversees and cares for the flock. They willingly give their life for even just one of the people in their group. A true shepherd/elder is one who will guide the people who they are overseeing, into the truth concerning what it truly means to be living the lifestyle as a child of God.

In the New Testament they are mostly referred to as an “elder” or the “chief elder” over a group of believers. The Apostle John was the “chief elder” of Ephesus in the region of Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). He was overseer of at least the seven churches that we read of in that region (Revelation 2 & 3) and most likely there were more.

The role of the elder or chief elder was to oversee the flock and answer questions (teach) concerning the Word of God. It is directly linked to the role of being a teacher and teaching the truth concerning God and His Word to the flock that they were assigned to. They are to give care, as God’s representative, to the Body that they have been assigned by God to oversee.

All these “giftings” and workings of the Holy Spirit as found in Ephesians 4:11-12, were given to the Body of Christ to help the believers in their everyday life now that they were children of God. They were given to the Body, through the power of the Holy Spirit, for the purpose of “*perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*” In other words they were given to aide and assist the Body of Christ, both at that time and today, in their walk with their God in this life.

### **More examples of the “gifts” and workings of the Holy Spirit**

1Corinthians 12:7-10—“*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. <sup>8</sup> For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; <sup>9</sup> To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; <sup>10</sup> To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues...*”

These “gifts” or works are given by the Holy Spirit to the Body to aide and assist the Body of Christ in their every day life.

If we say that these were just for the Corinthian Church than why do we have it in our Bible for us to read about today. The reason being, is that it is for us to see what is available to **every** born again child of God for today, as well as for those who Paul wrote it to back at that time. You see God is not a respecter of persons as His Word tell us in Acts 10:34.

There are also other “gifts/ workings” of the Holy Spirit. We read of the gifts of “helps” which is connected to the service of the poor and sick. This is the gifting of a person who has the desire and capacity to always help others and do whatever it takes to achieve a task. This “gift” is still in the Body of Christ, today. We saw this in the life of Mother Teresa and we see it in the lives of many others. This was actually what the first deacons were called to do in Acts 6:1-6. The Apostles chose seven men who were capable of handling the physical needs of the Body of believers in Jerusalem.

The “gift” or workings of “helps” is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to identify unmet needs involved in a task related to God's work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired results. It's main function is to help others in the Body of Christ in the general things of everyday life.

There are the gifts/workings of “governments and administration” - or leadership ability. This gift is given to keep things orderly and in agreement with God's principles and Word. It is needful and necessary in today's Body of Christ. Of the many gifts given by the Holy Spirit to His church, administration is sometimes overlooked but is just as important. (1Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:8) An administrator has a gifting that preserves order in the body of Christ. A true administrator is one that God has raised up. They will make the best business decisions with the best interests of the body of Christ in mind.

## **SOME ENDING COMMENTS**

If we take out the spiritual gifts and workings from the Bible and say that they are no longer useful than we must take out, let's say, Water Baptism from the Body of Christ. Why? Because we are saved through Jesus so what is the need of Water Baptism? It is a thing that the early church did but now we have the Bible so we don't need Water Baptism anymore -we have Jesus and the Bible.

We must also, therefore, take out what is preached about “love” because now all we need is God's “grace.” We are told now-a-days that salvation is all about God's grace. God's love is just a part of His grace. This is what is being preached in many churches today. The opposite is actually the truth. God's grace, mercy and peace are all of part of the full manifestation of God's **unconditional love**.

Actually, we then can take away all the words that Jesus taught in the Gospels because now we are “saved” and we no longer need what Jesus said. We no longer need the Gospels. Why? Because they are “old school” and really they are Old Testament. That is actually being done and taught in many of the churches, today.

We also then need to take out everything that the Apostle John wrote in 1,2 and 3John because they are not thought to be of God. John teaches us that we are to live out the commandments that God gave us and to walk in “love,” which many say is “old school.” They tell us that we do not need the commandments anymore because we now live under God’s grace. We don’t keep the commandments. They teach that God’s grace supersedes His love.

The truth is that God does love us through His grace, mercy and peace, BUT we are to **express our love to Him** by now living out how He desires for us to live. We do this by living our lives the way He desires us to – with love. It is found in His full Word – the Bible. The commandments help us in living that lifestyle. They are our “school-master” and teacher.

Many say we can take out the Book of Revelation from the Bible because they say that it will not happen or many say that it already happened in the past. They tell us that we are all saved, even if someone doesn’t know Jesus or is of a different religion or faith. Why? Because everyone (including the Muslim, the Buddhist, the Hindu, the agnostic, etc.) are all under God’s grace and are saved. There is no such thing as a place called “hell” anymore. This is being brought forth and taught in many churches today and in many denominations.

We are being told that there is no need to repent of any sin we may have committed. Why? Because God forgave us. There is no need to recognize or realize any sinful behavior because God does not see or look at sin anymore. This gives an open door to the gay agenda and other “lifestyle” agendas to come into the Body, as it already has. We can add to this and say that crime is okay because God “loves the criminal.” Yes, He loves all these people but He does not love the sin. Oh, I forgot... it is no longer sinful to do those evil deeds.

**WHERE DOES IT END!!!**

It stops with the true believers taking the full Word of God that was given to us and placed within the Bible and believing it, all of it, for our lives - yesterday, today and forever. The full Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation and everything in between, is found only in His

whole Word, the Old and the New Testament. If you remove some, then you must remove it all. If you remove any of the Word than you are removing that particular aspect of the fullness of God from your walk with God.

We do have the Bible today, however, we are getting to the end times. When the end times come, quite possibly the Bible itself will be taken away from us. We will be in a place just as the early church was. The Holy Spirit will continue to work in the Body as He did in the early church – through the gifts and workings of the Holy Spirit. They will never end until the end comes. However, the end is coming – soon.

The Father, Jesus and their salvation along with the works of the Holy Spirit will never be thwarted. Jesus will return and the “perfect” will then be here on this earth. Jesus will rule for 1000 years upon this earth and then after that, the Final Judgment. (Revelation 20:11-15) That is when the “gifts” will come to an end. That is when there will be no need for them.

Yes, we do have the Bible today. To say that the Bible is now here so we do not need the gifts/workings of the Holy Spirit does not make sense. Yes, we have the Bible but there are still those countries and areas that do not have the written Bible or it is forbidden. Yet, God is being brought forth. His works are being accomplished in those areas by those who simply believe and are working in the power of the Holy Spirit through these “gifts/workings.”

These “gifts/workings” are to be used as Jesus had used them. He used them to show others the power of God. People will see these things in action and they will either hear and receive the truth of the Good News or they will choose to reject Jesus and His truth.

*Revelation 22:18,19 - “For I testify unto every man that hears the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: <sup>19</sup>And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”*

John is speaking about the Book of Revelation. He is telling us that we are not to add or take away anything that Jesus gave to him and that he wrote in the Book of Revelation. However, it is also the way God looks at **ALL** of His Word. We are not to remove any part of His Word.

We learn about the sacrifices in the Old Testament and that the sacrificial system was brought to a completion through the final sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus. We also are taught about living the moral aspect of the Law as found in the Old Testament and that we cannot do it on our own. That is why Jesus came. Now through Jesus, we do not throw out the moral aspects of the Law. Rather we recognize and look at the Law as our school master that teaches us how we should be now acting as children of the Most High God.

That is the function of the Holy Spirit until Jesus returns. He will lead and guide us with all and in all that He is. He brings God's truth to light. The Holy Spirit will help us in helping believers. The Holy Spirit will help us in witnessing to the unsaved through His gifts and workings, as we have discussed. God's Word and the Holy Spirit are here to lead us, guide us and teach us in our growth in being and living out that new creation in Jesus that each of us now are.

We are truly a "New Creature," the "One New Man," that is now in Messiah/Christ.