

Holy Spirit You are welcome here!

Cat got your tongues?

The entire focus of last week's sermon was to introduce you, or to remind you that the Holy Spirit is a Person and He is GOD. He may be referred to as the "third" Person in the Godhead but that in no way diminishes His deity or personhood.

The Holy Spirit is a Person and He is God.

He was active in the beginning of creation.

We saw that when Jesus and other NT apostles quoted OT scriptures they gave credit to the Holy Spirit as the One who inspired OT saints to speak and write truth.

We saw that the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary and caused her conceive and then to give birth to the Son of God.

We saw how Jesus taught the disciples that the HOLY SPIRIT would come and be with them and in them. He would teach them all things, cause them to remember all things spoken to them, and He would testify of Jesus as well as cause them to powerfully testify of the Son as well.

We learned that the Holy Spirit is in the world convicting it of sin, righteousness and judgment.

And we learned that the Holy Spirit was directly involved in our salvation thru the washing of regeneration and renewal of our spirits thus becoming “born again”.

Let’s pray that the Holy Spirit will be gracious this morning; Let us pray that He will empower me to speak with clarity as well as empowering you to listen to what the Spirit is saying to you thru this teaching!

Before we continue with the Works of the Holy Spirit, I want to take a look at the Names and Symbols found in Scripture.

In scripture, there is over 20 different names given to Him.

1. The Spirit
2. Spirit of God
3. Spirit of the LORD
4. Spirit of the Sovereign LORD
5. Spirit of the Living God
6. Spirit of Christ
7. Spirit of the Holy God
8. Spirit of Grace (and supplication)
9. Spirit of your Father (in Heaven)
10. Spirit of Truth
11. Spirit of holiness
12. Spirit of Life in Christ
13. Spirit of Adoption
14. Spirit of His Son
15. Holy Spirit

16. Holy Spirit of promise
17. Holy Spirit of God
18. Spirit of Jesus Christ
19. Eternal Spirit
20. Spirit of Glory (and of God)
21. Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
22. The Spirit of counsel and might,
23. The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

These are all one and the same Spirit! And, there are symbols used throughout scripture to represent Him:

The Bible records special symbols to refer to the Holy Spirit. Five prominent symbols that refer to Him are **the dove, fire, wind, water, and oil**. Each one teaches us something about the Holy Spirit. When looking at a symbol, be sure that the context calls for the interpretation of it as a proper reference to the Holy Spirit. For example, even though the Holy Spirit is identified with a dove in [Matt 3:16](#), the dove sent out by Noah was not. Sometimes a dove is just a dove.

1. Dove

- a. Probably the most recognizable symbol of the Holy Spirit is the *dove* that appeared at the baptism of Jesus. It is recorded in all four gospels ([Matt 3:16](#); [Mark 1:10](#); [Luke 3:22](#); [John 1:32](#)). Matthew writes, “After **Jesus** was baptized, just as he was coming up out of the water, the heavens opened and he saw the **Spirit of God** descending like a dove and coming on him” ([Matt 3:16](#)). The dove as a

symbol of the Holy Spirit communicates beauty, gentleness, and peace.

2. Fire

- a. Mat_3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- b. The most explicit passage that refers to the Holy Spirit as fire is in [Acts 2](#). “Now when the day of Pentecost had come, . . . tongues spreading out like a fire appeared to them and came to rest on each one of them. **All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit**” ([Acts 2:1-4](#)). In a similar analogy, Paul commands the Thessalonians, “Do not quench the Spirit” (NASB; [1 Thess 5:19](#)). Disobedience to the Spirit is like throwing water on a fire.
- c. Fire also symbolizes judgement; **Heb 12:29** states “For our God *is* a consuming fire.”. The context is the future judgment where He will shake earth and heaven. Since we are in Him, we serve Him with reverence and are therefore not shaken. Those who are not His will be shaken, judged and that with Holy Fire.

3. Wind

- a. The Greek word for Spirit (*pneuma*) can also be translated as breath or *wind*. Perhaps then it is not surprising that the Holy Spirit is seen and compared to as wind. Two verses in the New Testament communicate this. In [Acts 2:4](#) Luke writes, “Suddenly a sound like a violent wind blowing came from heaven and filled the entire house where they were sitting.” And in [John 3:8](#), John describes, “The wind

blows wherever it will, and you hear the sound it makes, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." The image of wind communicates that the Holy Spirit is powerful, invisible, immaterial and sovereignly operates where he intends.

b. [Gen 7:22](#) All in whose nostrils *was* the breath of the spirit of life, all that *was* on the dry *land*, died.

c. [Job 33:4](#) The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

4. **Water** is also an image of the Holy Spirit. Jesus makes this explicit connection at the end of the feast of Booths. "On the last day of the feast, the greatest day, Jesus stood up and shouted out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. Just as the scripture says, 'From within him will flow rivers of living water.' (Now he said this about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were going to receive, for the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified)" ([John 7:37-39](#)). As fresh water is needed for physical life, the living water of the Holy Spirit is needed for spiritual life.

5. **Isa 44:3** For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring;

This is a wonderful promise made to the children of Israel. The Spirit poured out on "those who are thirsty",

thirsty for God, thirsty for the Holy Spirit! These are the humble and repentant.

David Guzik remarks in his commentary on Isaiah:

God will not simply give them His Spirit; He will **pour** out His Spirit on them as if **water** was poured over them.

God wants to **pour** His Spirit upon His people! If you experience a few drops, God wants to **pour**. If you are bone dry, God wants to **pour**. If you know the pour, God wants to keep pouring! We must learn to stop saying “when” as God pours!

Spurgeon also says:

“Without the Spirit of God we can do nothing; we are as ships without wind, or chariots without steeds, like branches without sap, we are withered; like coals without fire, we are useless; as an offering without the sacrificial flame, we are unaccepted. I desire both to feel and to confess this fact whenever I attempt to preach. I do not wish to get away from it, or to conceal it, nor can I, for I am often made to feel it to the deep humbling of my spirit.” (Spurgeon)

6. OIL is also a symbol of the Spirit.

- a. **(1 Samuel 16:13 NKJV)** Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the **Spirit of the LORD** came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

- b. (Isaiah 61:1 NKJV) "The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound; (Jesus quoted this in Luke 4:18. Note that His title of Messiah (Mashiach in Hebrew) means "Anointed").
- c. Remember, check the context before thinking that one of these symbols is representative of the Person of the Holy Spirit.

And NOW, back to the Work of the Holy Spirit.

THE HOLY SPIRIT SEND US OUT TO DO WORKS OF SERVICE

Acts 13:2-3 NKJV As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, **the Holy Spirit said**, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (3) Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away.

(John 20:21-22 NKJV) So Jesus said to them again, "**Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**" (22) And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, "**Receive the Holy Spirit.**"

THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US TO WORSHIP

Philippians 3:3 NKJV For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

John 4:21-24 NKJV Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. (22) You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. (23) But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father **in spirit and truth**; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. (24) God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US TO PRAY

Romans 8:26-27 NKJV Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, **but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.** (27) Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of* God.

THE HOLY SPIRIT FORMING CHRIST WITHIN US

Romans 8:29 NKJV For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that

He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV (18) But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Galatians 4:19 NKJV My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,

THE INDWELLING SPIRIT FULLY AND FOREVER SATISFYING

The indwelling Spirit of God is a source of full and everlasting satisfaction in life. Speaking to the woman at the well:

Jesus answered and said to her, **"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."** (11) The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? (12) Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" (13) Jesus answered and said to her, **"Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, (14) but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing**

up into everlasting life." John 4:10-14

And then in the Temple for the Feast of Booths:

John 7:37-39 NKJV On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. (38) He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, **out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**" (39) But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

And along with all these gracious works He also does something awesome:

Ephesians 1:13-14 NKJV In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, **you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,** (14) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 NKJV (21) Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us *is* God, (22) who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

One of the ways that we sometimes mistake Him for a power, or force or an influence is in the realm of Spiritual Gifts. Since He gives the gift to us, it is easy to think that our exercise of the Gift is done in our own power.

But let us first understand what the gifts are according to Scripture and then explore the issues, divisions and realities and responsibilities of their use.

Spiritual Gifts

Lists of spiritual gifts occur in [Romans 12](#); [1 Corinthians 12](#) and [Ephesians 4](#). The gifts are listed in the order in which they are given.

[Romans 12:6-8 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; **(7)** or **ministry**, *let us use it* in *our* ministering; he who **teaches**, in teaching; **(8)** he who **exhorts**, in exhortation; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who shows **mercy**, with cheerfulness.

[1 Corinthians 12:8-10 NKJV](#) **(8)** for to one is given the **word of wisdom** through the Spirit, to another the **word of knowledge** through the same Spirit, **(9)** to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healings** by the same Spirit, **(10)** 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**.

Ephesians 4:11 NKJV And He Himself **gave** some *to be* **apostles**, some **prophets**, some **evangelists**, and some **pastors and teachers**

<u>Romans 12</u>	1 Corinthians	<u>Ephesians 4</u>
Prophecy	apostle	apostle
Service	prophet	prophet
Teaching	teacher	evangelist
Exhortation	miracles	pastor
Contributing	gifts of healing	teacher ⁴
Leadership	helps	
Mercy	gifts of leadership	
	different kinds of tongues	
	message of wisdom	
	message of knowledge	
	faith	
	interpretation of tongues	
	discernment of spirits	

Let's look at the gifts (in no particular order)

1. **Word of wisdom**; this gift is used to understand and resolve very difficult issues or problems. It is used to bring to complete resolution to a conflict in which both parties are completely satisfied with the solution. It can also give

us the “right words at the right time”. This has been seen in Scripture with Solomon:

- a. **1 Kings 3:16-28 NKJV** Now two women *who were* harlots came to the king, and stood before him. (17) And one woman said, "O my lord, this woman and I dwell in the same house; and I gave birth while she *was* in the house. (18) Then it happened, the third day after I had given birth, that this woman also gave birth. And we *were* together; no one *was* with us in the house, except the two of us in the house. (19) And this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him. (20) So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from my side, while your maidservant slept, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom. (21) And when I rose in the morning to nurse my son, there he was, dead. But when I had examined him in the morning, indeed, he was not my son whom I had borne." (22) Then the other woman said, "No! But the living one *is* my son, and the dead one *is* your son." And the first woman said, "No! But the dead one *is* your son, and the living one *is* my son." Thus they spoke before the king. (23) And the king said, "The one says, 'This *is* my son, who lives, and your son *is* the dead one'; and the other says, 'No! But your son *is* the dead one, and my son *is* the living one.' " (24) Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king. (25) And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the

other." (26) Then the woman whose son *was* living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!" But the other said, "Let him be neither mine nor yours, *but* divide *him*." (27) So the king answered and said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she *is* his mother." (28) **And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God *was* in him to administer justice.**

- b. **Luke 20:22-26 NKJV** Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" (23) But He perceived their craftiness, and said to them, "**Why do you test Me? (24) Show Me a denarius. Whose image and inscription does it have?**" They answered and said, "Caesar's." (25) And He said to them, "**Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.**" (26) But they could not catch Him in His words in the presence of the people. And they marveled at His answer and kept silent.
- c. Not our wisdom but His! Chuck Smith writes that it's not a well from which to draw whenever we want. It's a gift, given at the time of need or in response to prayer:
- i. **James 1:5-8 NKJV** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (6)

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. (7) For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; (8) he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

d. It wouldn't be a gift of the holy spirit unless it was something totally out of your natural realm of understanding

2. **Gift of Knowledge** – this is information or knowledge of certain situations that are extremely important. It comes from the Holy Spirit and there is no way you would have any knowledge of it. It often flashes in our minds. It might be related to some secret sin or other impending decision that someone is going to make whereby the knowledge is critical.

a. Jesus demonstrated this gift often. In John 4 Jesus is at the well talking with a Samaritan women.

i. **John 4:15-18 NKJV** The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." (16) Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." (17) The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' (18) for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."

b. And, who can forget how Peter received the gift when

Ananias and Sapphira lied about the monies they brought to him.

- c. Chuck Smith has many more stories about words of knowledge in our times, things that happened to him and others he knew either beforehand or before the thing was revealed.

3. GIFT OF FAITH

- a. **Heb 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
 - i. **Hebrews 11:1 NLT** Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.
 - ii. **(ESV)** Now faith is the assurance (confidence) of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

- b. Chuck Smith delineates several types of faith, but all are gifts because it is not in our fleshly nature to have Godly faith
 - i. **Saving faith** – Ephesians 2:8
 - ii. **Trusting faith** – that God will do as He has promised you.
 - iii. **Healing faith** – Matthew 9:20-22
 - iv. Special gifts of faith. The gift is given for a specific purpose at a specific time. I am a worrier. But God has given me this gift at critical times. For example, coming here....
 - v. God is still sovereign; Even though you might have received great faith, it might be to deliver

you from a time of trial or suffering.

1. [Hebrews 11:13 NLT](#) All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth.
2. [Hebrews 11:35-40 NLT](#) Women received their loved ones back again from death. But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. **They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection.** (36) Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. (37) Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. (38) They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground. (39) All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. (40) For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us.

4. GIFTS of HEALINGS

- a. Why the plural? Perhaps because we are all different and therefore need different types of healings.
- b. God does not heal everyone supernaturally. EG, Paul and the “thorn in his side”. Timothy who was advised to drink a little wine for his stomach.
- c. There are some who walk away from the Lord because a parent has died or there was a terrible accident resulting in long-term crippling.
- d. But just this past week, a young man at CCW, who was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer was completely healed right before he visited a cancer treatment center! No trace of the cancer was found!
- e. WHY does he heal some and not others? I don't know. Don't make this a salvation issue, that is, do not abandon Him just because He chooses not to heal!

1 Peter 4:19 NLT So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.

5. **Discernment** – in a world where it is difficult at times, to determine if what we're thinking is from God, our mind or even Satan, the **gift of discernment is critical**. My own experience with this Gift is that a red-flag, an uneasy feeling is very strong in me. The discernment comes knowing the source of the feeling is. This takes abiding in

the Spirit and abiding in the Word. Much of the gift is exercised in discerning the truth of what someone is teaching or someone says that he has heard from the Spirit about you.

6. **Miracles** – this gift is a supernatural event that can not be explained in any other way other than God. A reading of scriptures shows that there were many who were gifted with performing miracles, for example, Moses, Elijah and of course Jesus. Each were given the gift as a witness to the One true God.

a. **John 10:37-38 NKJV** If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; (38) but if I do, though you do not believe Me, **believe the works**, that you may know and believe that the Father *is* in Me, and I in Him."

b. A miracle is (1) an extraordinary event, inexplicable in terms of ordinary natural forces; (2) an event which causes the observers to postulate a super-human personal cause; (3) an event which constitutes evidence (a 'sign') of implications much wider than the event itself" [The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 1969].

7. Apostles - **Acts 1:21-22 NKJV** "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, (22) beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, **one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.**"

a. Given this one requirement, many scholars and teachers do not believe that this gift is available

today.

8. Prophecy – One type of prophecy is predictive and the other is a “thus says the LORD” type of message or divine revelation to a group or individual. The Bible tells us that God uses the gift of prophecy to speak edification, exhortation, and comfort to other people. In the OT, God spoke thru the prophets to also call His covenant people back into a right relationship with Himself, comfort them in times of discipline and to make predictions of major future events, such as the nearly 300 prophecies concerning the coming of His Son.
9. Tongues – the Gift of tongues; of all the gifts this is the most controversial and the most misunderstood. For today I want you to understand that this gift is used to speak to God, not man. Acts 2, where the disciples were speaking in “other tongues”, a careful reading says that the crowds hearing “this sound” **heard** them speak in his own language. Acts 2:8 records “...and how is it that we HEAR each of us in his own native language”. And the disciples heard them speaking of the mighty works of God. The emphasis was on their “hearing” not that the disciples spoke in different native tongues. However, this does not mean that God cannot give someone who does not know Chinese the ability to speak it perfectly in the hearing of a Chinese person!

Today was just an introduction to the Gifts of the Spirit. There is a lot more to learn! There are responsibilities. There are false

manifestations. There are what might be termed “rules of use”. Next week we will round out our learning by studying the Gifts in the context in which they were written.

I will also tell you where I stand on the use of the gifts in church, whether it be during a Sunday or Wednesday, or in corporate prayer time or small group settings.

I hope to have a teaching on prayer as well. After these foundational topics, we will begin the Book of Acts so that we can learn how to be a church that is gifted and empowered to do God’s work here at CC Crossville!