

“This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you.”

(2 Timothy 1:6, NLT)

You and I are called to constantly stir up the embers and fuel the fire so we will remain a blazing inferno for Jesus

- “*stir up*” (NKJV) – the original language refers to repeating an earlier action or doing something again
- To be enthusiastic, fervent, passionate, vigorous, wholehearted, or zealous

The fact is that when the fuel of any sort is depleted, fire will eventually go out

The biblical pattern of the book of Acts also reveals that if we give the **Word of God** a preeminent position in our lives we put ourselves in a position for the miraculous to take place

Not only was the early church addicted to the Word of the Lord, but they were also **Steadfast in Prayer** – **Acts 2:42**

- It was a priority to them
- They were intensely focused on and completely committed to prayer

They understood that when they called out to God He would hear them and show them mighty answers beyond their natural understanding

Likewise, if we are going to see God move mightily among us today, it is essential that we call out to Him in fervent, faith-filled prayer

In the earliest days of the Church, as recorded in the book of Acts, the early believers understood their complete dependence on the Holy Spirit

- They healed the sick
- They cast out demons
- They raised the dead

They testified of the living reality of Jesus Christ as the miraculous abounded among them

The Early Church was literally ablaze with the divine energy of the Holy Spirit!

Unfortunately most of the Church today operates without the supernatural involvement of the Holy Spirit

“If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the Church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament Church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference.” – A.W. Tozer

Many churches believe in the supernatural work of the Spirit, yet experience little of it

Other churches believe it was relegated to the past in the first years of the Christian era

The truth is when people are receptive to it, they will experience the supernatural moving of the Holy Spirit

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” (Genesis 1:1–2, NKJV)

This first mention of the Holy Spirit in the Bible very important

- It reveals Him in *movement*
- From the beginning to the very end of the bible, the Holy Spirit is always in *divine movement*

From the outset of Scripture, we find that the Holy Spirit was revealed as the creative power of God

- This is revealed and confirmed throughout the Bible
- As He begins to move, individuals are empowered and creative power is supernaturally released
- Common people are divinely energized to accomplish uncommon feats
- When the Spirit is referred to in the Old Testament, He is never silent or motionless
- He moves, speaks, enables, and releases power to change people and circumstances

The Old Testament accounts of the Holy Spirit are enough in themselves to convince us that His role is to bring active power and the voice of God into the earth as believers yield to Him

When you examine the four Gospels you see the same witness in the life of and ministry of Jesus

As early as the angel Gabriel's announcement that Mary would become pregnant and bear the Son of God, we see the role of the Holy Spirit as divine activity throughout the four Gospels

“Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.” (Luke 1:34–35, NKJV)

We see here that the Holy Spirit is going to move upon Mary

The result of His *movement* would be that the power of God would come upon her and she would supernaturally conceive Jesus in her womb

“When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.” (Matthew 3:16, NKJV)

- As a result of this *movement* upon Jesus, He is supernaturally empowered by the Holy Spirit
- Only after this is Jesus thrust into His earthy ministry

“how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” (Acts 10:38, NKJV)

- If Jesus needed the *movement* of the Spirit of God upon His life for ministry, I assure you we do as well

Where there is no moving of the Holy Spirit, there is no supernatural activity, no power, and no supernatural acts

The book of Acts makes it clear that when the Holy Spirit is allowed to move, His movement results in power

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

(Acts 1:8, NKJV)

- Jesus told the disciples to tarry or wait for the Holy Spirit before they did anything
- When the Holy Spirit’s power is received, He releases the advancing power of God into the person who receives it
- It isn’t quiet, reserved, motionless power
- It is mighty and explosive – Dunamis Power

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

(Acts 2:4, NKJV)

- The disciples were ablaze with the fresh fire of God
- Tongues of fire appeared over each of them
- They began to speak in miraculous languages
- Immediately the supernatural was released

Furthermore, in the Bible and particularly in the book of Acts, we find that the Holy Spirit is rarely silent

- When He descended that day in the Upper Room on the day of Pentecost no one wondered if He was present
- Everyone felt His presence

“And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.” (Acts 5:14–16, NKJV)

- There were so many that needed healing that Peter couldn't lay his hands on them all
- However, the Spirit was moving so mightily that they lined up the beds in the streets
- Peter's shadow was enough to heal those who were sick and set free those who were possessed by evil spirits

“And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.” (Acts 6:8, NKJV)

“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city.” (Acts 8:5–8, NKJV)

“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.” (Acts 10:44–45, NKJV)

“And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”

(Acts 19:6, NKJV)

- This event occurred 23 years after the first movement of the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room
- This proves that the earlier experiences were not anomalies
- Nor were they events associated with the original 12 Apostles of Jesus

These miraculous occurrences were precedents revealing a divine pattern that would continue to the very end of the book of Acts and on to the end of the Church Age

“Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.” **(Acts 19:11–12, NKJV)**

- This event occurred years after the first event in Jerusalem
 - The Holy Spirit was still moving with powerful results
- Again and again, we see that whenever the Holy Spirit moves, believers are visited with supernatural acts

This was the norm as the Spirit bore witness with signs and wonders in the lives of those who preached the Gospel
– **Hebrews 2:4**

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. **(Matthew 28:19–20, NKJV)**

“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”” (Mark 16:17–18, NKJV)

- Believe – “*constantly believing*”
- This doesn’t happen automatically just because you walk down the aisle and pray to be saved
- These signs follow those who are *constantly believing* for them to manifest
- This is not for those who are passive
- We must be willing to push forward in the Spirit

Those who press forward and release their faith to see the supernatural demonstrated will experience the miraculous

- When you pray for the sick, expect them to be healed
- When you confront someone who is demonized, expect that person to be set free
- When you are in a situation that requires the miraculous, expect the miraculous to occur
- When you need protection, expect God’s hand of protection to be upon you – **Psalm 91**

Jesus guaranteed that God’s supernatural signature would be on anyone who preaches the Gospel and opens the way for the supernatural to come to pass by believing

- All of these signs that Jesus describes in this text are to be following believers
- Are they following you?
- If not, why not?

What Are the Gifts of the Spirit?

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:”

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:” (1 Corinthians 12:1, 7, NKJV)

- It is clear that God wants us to know about spiritual gifts
- These gifts must be good because the Spirit of God only does what is good and profitable for us
- It is also clear that the Spirit doesn't just want to be present in the Church; He wants to *manifest* Himself in the Church
- One way He does this is through spiritual gifts

Paul further stated that the nine gifts of the Spirit are designed by God to operate in *“each one”* or *“every man”* – NKJV

- Every man – *“every single person with no one excluded”*
- It clearly means that God wants no one left out

He doesn't want one believer to miss out on receiving and operating in this vital part of our inheritance

- God wants us to *benefit* or *profit* to have an advantage over the devil
- This is why Satan works to convince believers that these gifts are not for today

He realizes that when a supernatural element of the Holy Spirit is at work in the church, it brings a dimension of Christ to the Church that believers otherwise wouldn't know

The Nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:” (1 Corinthians 12:4–7, NKJV)

- The manifestations and operations of the Holy Spirit are endless in their variety and diversity
- Always toward one end – *“the profit of all”*
- Because they originate from the Spirit of God we know that they are good – James 1:17

Word of Wisdom – 1 Corinthians 12:8

- Word of wisdom – *“a fragment of special insight”*

An answer or directive to a pressing need, question, situation, or insight into future events that could not be known naturally

“saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.’” (Acts 27:24, NKJV)

- Paul is on a ship with others that was headed directly for disaster
- After the crew’s long, futile struggle to bring the ship under control, Paul has a dream
- An angel delivers this message
- The information doesn’t give him a full answer regarding his situation
- It was a *“word”* from heaven giving him insight into the future of his situation

Word of Knowledge – 1 Corinthians 12:8

- Word of Knowledge – *“a fragment of special knowledge”* that one supernaturally receives
- The ability to supernaturally know facts and details you could not have known naturally

Given to illuminate listeners to God’s intimate, personal involvement in the facts and details of a specific situation, or in a person's life so that His purpose can be fulfilled in that situation or that person’s life

Jesus and the woman at the well

“for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.” The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.”

(John 4:18–19, NKJV)

Special Faith or Gift of Faith – 1 Corinthians 12:9

- This is not natural faith, which every person possesses
– **Romans 12:3**

Manifested as a sudden impartation by the Holy Spirit of supernatural, special faith as a critical moment to accomplish God’s purpose or desire in a particular situation or event

- A sudden burst of faith is released
- It empowers the person to believe the impossible is doable
- To accomplish something that can only be done supernaturally

Example – **Acts 14:9** – A lame man – *“seeing that he had faith”*

Gifts of Healing – 1 Corinthians 12:9

- Gifts – Plural – tells us that there are different aspects of this manifestation
- All designed to produce healing, but in different ways
- Healing – “*to cure*” – as in a physician
- A doctor doesn’t normally produce instant results
- It’s a process
- This may begin with prayer and the laying on of hands
- Over time there is a progressive healing
- Not the same as the working of miracles

Example – **Luke 17:14** – Jesus heals a group of lepers, “*as they went*”

Working of Miracles – 1 Corinthians 12:10

- Working of Miracles – “the operation of powers”
- A divine operation of supernatural powers
- It overrides natural laws and quickly does what is naturally impossible
- Usually occurs in a split second

Examples – Jesus walking on the water or multiplying the fishes and loaves

- God overriding the laws of nature

Prophecy – 1 Corinthians 12:10

- Prophecy – “*to speak on behalf of God; to speak in advance of a situation; to foretell an event, or to assert the mind of God to others*”
- This is not only for those in “*full time*” ministry

“For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.” (1 Corinthians 14:31, NKJV)

- Always brings edification, exhortation, and comfort
 - 1 Corinthians 14:3

Example:

“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.”” (Acts 13:2, NKJV)

Discerning of Spirits – 1 Corinthians 12:10

The supernatural ability to perceive the true nature of a spiritual situation or to discern what spiritual forces are really at work in an individual or a specific circumstance

Example – Acts 16:6 – a spirit of divination

Different Kinds of Tongues / Interpretation of Tongues

– 1 Corinthians 12:10

- Paul is describing the public gift of tongues
- Not the same as your prayer language

The Holy Spirit’s inner prompting to deliver a specific message in tongues from the heart of God to an individual or assembled group

- The person will not understand what they said
- It must be interpreted – 1 Corinthians 14:5, 26-28
- Not a word for word translation
- The “gist” of what was said
- Everything for edification

“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.” (1 Corinthians 14:1, NKJV)

- We are commanded here to follow after love and to desire spiritual gifts
- Desire – *“to be fervently boiling over with zealouslyness”*
“the intense desire to seek something until it is obtained”
- This is not a mere wish or want
- We are to have an intense longing for spiritual gifts

The Holy Spirit is the power that produces a transformation in your life and in the lives of the people God wants you to minister to

“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.”

(2 Corinthians 3:18, NKJV)

“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.”

(1 Timothy 4:14, NKJV)

- Staying mindful of the Holy Spirit’s gifts on the inside of you is vital for living life with a fresh fire
- A key to your spiritual growth and maturity
- We must be intentional about moving in the gifts of the Spirit
- We must purposely make room for them in our personal lives and the life of the Church
- This is for each of us for the edification of all!