

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

SABBATH FEBRUARY 25, 2017

AIM: Help students to understand the difference between the fruit of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

KNOW: Analyze the difference between the two, and discover the Holy Spirit's divine purpose for spiritual gifts.

FEEL: Appreciate the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and develop a deep desire for them.

DO: Make an active choice to use your gifts to help others.

INTRODUCTION

When Jesus left His disciples and went to be with His Father in heaven, He gave them a specific task: preach the good news of the gospel to the world. But Jesus did not leave His disciples unequipped. What He commanded them to do He enabled them to do, but in His name and through the power and help of the Holy Spirit. In 1 Corinthians 1:4–7, Paul gives thanks “for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in everything you were enriched in Him . . . so that you are not lacking in any gift” (NASB). Spiritual gifts are given through the Holy Spirit in Christ to build His church. This week we will study the Holy Spirit as the Sovereign Giver of God's remarkable gifts, and look at the difference between the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit. (*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*).

Memory Text *“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” (1Corinthians 12:4–6, NKJV).*

READ: 1Corinthians 12:4-7, 11.

MEDITATE: Vertical relationship.

QUESTION: What is the difference between the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit?

SHARE IN TWOS: Horizontal relationship.

APPLICATION: If you could choose to have any one of these gifts, which one would you choose? Why would you choose that particular gift? What makes that gift desirable to you?

* This week's lesson reveals one of the most powerful principles in the entire Bible for growing healthy churches. God has given every member gifts for ministry in the church and in the community. He or she may not realize what those gifts are, but the Holy Spirit has imparted them. When we recognize the gifts that God has given us and use them to His glory, the church functions as a healthy body. Encourage your class members to pray that God will help them recognize their gifts, and guide them in using these gifts to advance His kingdom. Share the thought that the same Holy Spirit that imparts the gifts will reveal to each one of us which gifts He has imparted and how to best use them in Christ's service. **When we are sensitive to the working of the Holy Spirit and are completely committed to Christ and His work, the Spirit will guide us in discerning our gifts, and teach us how to best use them to glorify God.** *

TAKE AWAY: SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE WORTHLESS WITHOUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.

READ: Ephesians 4:7-12.

MEDITATE: Vertical relationship.

QUESTION: In A Discussion with a fellow Church member they say, "I don't have any gifts of the Spirit that I am aware of. I really am jealous of some people in the church who seem to have many gifts. But sometimes I think that I don't like it that God has given them gifts and not me." How would you respond to this member?

SHARE IN FOURS: Horizontal relationship.

APPLICATION: What message can you take away from the fact that different people have different gifts?

* **Each of God's gifts is given to us out of the abundance of His grace and love. It is because He loves His church so deeply that He imparts to us gifts to build up His church.** Although each Christian cannot do everything, each one of us can do something for Christ. Each one has been given gifts for service. Although these gifts vary, they all are necessary for a healthy, functioning church. There are no superior and inferior gifts. The gift of helps is just as important to the church as the gift of healing. The gift of hospitality is just as important

as the gift of proclamation. The gift of generosity is just as important as the gift of administration. Can you imagine a church without those who had the gift of helps, the gift of hospitality, or the gift of generosity? It certainly would be a cold, self-centred, inward-focused group of people. **Every gift is essential.***

TAKE AWAY: THE SOVEREIGN GOD GIVES THE GIFTS AS HE CHOOSES.

READ: Romans 12: 3-10.

MEDITATE: Vertical relationship.

QUESTION: When we commit our lives to Jesus and are baptized, He promises to send His Spirit to strengthen us in order that we may face the temptations of Satan and to impart spiritual gifts for service. Why is it that, at times, we fail to recognize our gifts?

SHARE IN GROUPS OF THREES': Horizontal relationship.

APPLICATION: What is the danger in a church with a handful of spiritual leaders recognized year after year to carry out key leadership roles?

* **The spiritual gifts were clearly given for service, not for our sanctification. They are not miraculous tricks that satisfy our curiosity, nor are they given as an antidote to boredom.** Often we think about the gifts of the Holy Spirit in terms of fulfilling our spiritual needs or as empowering us in our walk with God. The result is a view of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that is more Christian-centred than Christ-centred. It is more focused on us than on God. Too often we think about spiritual gifts only in terms of ability and talents that we receive. While talents are involved in spiritual gifts, we should keep in mind that in bestowing a spiritual gift the Holy Spirit also always gives a specific task or ministry that goes along with it (1 Pet. 4:10). **Thus, we might say that spiritual gifts are certain capacities given supernaturally by God through the Holy Spirit. These gifts fit the person for a special type of service that will build up the church. To reach that goal, diverse gifts are needed.** *

TAKE AWAY: OUR GIFTS WHETHER LARGE OR SMALL MUST BE USED FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF GOD'S KINGDOM.

READ: 1John 4: 1-3.

MEDIATE: Vertical relationship.

QUESTION: Why are miraculous healings and wonders in themselves not a safe guide for determining truth? What do we need along with them? (Isaiah 8:20).

SHARE OPENLY: Horizontal relationship.

APPLICATION: Think of some creative project for your Sabbath School class that uniquely uses the gifts of each member. How can you collectively use your gifts for the cause of Christ?

* While there are genuine spiritual gifts present in the church, the Bible also warns us not to believe every spirit but rather to test the spirits by their conformity to Scripture, their consistency, and whether they exalt Jesus as the Lord. We are warned that there are demonic powers seeking to mislead the church and that there are devilish reproductions of the genuine gifts of the Spirit, such as false teachings, false prophecy, lying visions, counterfeit tongue-speaking, occult healing powers, misleading signs and wonders, et cetera. In order to preserve the church in truth and unity and to safeguard the members from following false prophets and being deluded by false signs and miracles, God gives the church the gift of discernment. Biblical maturity, knowledge, and faithfulness to God's Word in belief and practice are needed to make proper evaluations. The basis for all discernment, however, has to be the Word of God. Only through testing everything by the Word can we know for sure whether what we are hearing or seeing is truly from the Lord or, instead, from somewhere else. "The man who makes the working of miracles the test of his faith will find that Satan can, through a species of deceptions, perform wonders that will appear to be genuine miracles. . . Let not the days pass by and precious opportunities be lost of seeking the Lord with all the heart and mind and soul. If we accept not the truth in the love of it, we may be among the number who will see the miracles wrought by Satan in these last days, and believe them. Many strange things will appear as wonderful miracles, which should be regarded as deceptions manufactured by the father of lies. . . Men under the influence of evil spirits will work miracles."—Ellen G. White, Selected Messages, book 2, pp. 52, 53. *

TAKE AWAY: MIRACLES MUST BE TESTED BY THE WORD OF GOD.

SUMMARY

- 1. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE WORTHLESS WITHOUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.**
- 2. THE SOVEREIGN GOD GIVES THE GIFTS AS HE CHOOSES.**
- 3. OUR GIFTS WHETHER LARGE OR SMALL MUST BE USED FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF GOD'S KINGDOM.**
- 4. MIRACLES MUST BE TESTED BY THE WORD OF GOD.**

