

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

Phil O. Waldo
Lead Pastor



1224 Hancock Drive
Boone, Iowa 50036

Phone: 515 432-3329

Website: www.booneopenbible.com
E-mail: office@booneopenbible.com
pastor@booneopenbible.com

SERMON TITLE The Power of the Holy Spirit, part 2

SERIES We Need the Holy Spirit

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KEY SCRIPTURE Romans 12

SYNOPSIS The Holy Spirit distributes supernatural gifts to believers who are willing and ready for him to work through them.

HIGHLIGHTS **Closing song:** The Power of Your Presence



We Need the Holy Spirit

☞ The Power of the Holy Spirit, part 2

Last week: Power, part 1... The Holy Spirit distributes supernatural gifts to believers who are willing and ready for him to work through them. The same Spirit who fills us and develops godly character in us, gives supernatural gifts to us as well. These unearned gifts are for the benefit of the church, for confirming God's word, and for winning the lost. We are supposed to learn about these things and we should eagerly desire the gifts. Last week, we looked at 9 gifts in 1 Corinthians 12. Today, let's see what Romans 12 has to say.

☞ Romans 12:1-8

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will. 3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.**

Before we even begin to talk about the gifts here, Paul sets the stage for a proper understanding and attitude amongst believers. As I mentioned last week, people easily get a wrong idea about the gifts, thinking it's all about feeling something special or showing off and getting attention. Biblically, this is clearly not the case, and Paul reminds us again about having a right attitude in the matter.

☞ v. 1 Living sacrifices = your entire self, **given to God**. This means that God wants you, not just your work, not just your skills and gifts. He wants you completely.

*All He wants is you by Audrey Mieir
All He wants is you, No one else will do
Not just a part He wants all of your heart.
All He wants is all of you, All He wants is you.*

You are called to be a living sacrifice to God. That means that you offer yourself to him to do as he sees fit. The truth is, our natural bodies have a will of their own that must come under the control of God. We offer ourselves to him, but then our natural, sinful natures keep rising back



up. So, we must continually offer ourselves to the Lord. This kind of lifestyle is the purest form of worship.

☞ v.2 Don't conform, **be transformed** = metamorphosis. As we continually give ourselves to God, he continually works in us to become something completely different. Like a caterpillar becoming a butterfly, we are changed to be more like Jesus. Everyone has some sort of sinful past, but God wants to transform each of us into something brand new and better. This transformation is not automatic, but requires us to renew our minds, to change the way we think.

v.3 Here is one of the ways we are to think differently: don't be so focused on yourself; don't be ☞ all cocky and arrogant; instead, **be real and be humble**. The old way, before Christ, was very self-focused. Now, as a new creation in Christ, the new way is to be humble, putting God and others first.

Biblical humility is not humiliation. It doesn't mean to be self-degrading, tearing yourself down. Rather, it means to be honest and truthful about your attitude and abilities. The old way tends to puff up any ability we might have. The new way realizes that any ability we have comes from the Lord and therefore, remains humble.

When it comes to spiritual gifts, we should remember that spiritual *giftedness* does not equal spiritual *maturity*. Humility is always important in our walk with God, perhaps even more so, when it comes to the spiritual gifts.

v. 4-5 remind us that we are the Body of Christ with many members. If you get all puffed up about yourself, then the rest of the body suffers. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul talks about this, clarifying that each part is important. Without all the various parts, the body would be incomplete. We are all different and we each have various gifts, making each one unique. Yet, ☞ at the same time, we all belong to each other, since **together we form one body**.

Now, with the proper foundation and attitude in place, we can talk about spiritual gifts. Last week we saw the Manifestation Gifts which include gifts of comprehension, gifts of capability ☞ and gives of communication. Today, we will look at the **Motivational Gifts**, which include gifts of instruction, gifts of inspiration, and gifts of initiation.

Just like last time, these are **gifts of grace = unearned**. Spiritual gifts are not given on the basis of merit, but because God chooses to give them.

☞ The **Gifts of Instruction** here are prophesying and teaching. These are all about receiving a word from the Lord and then sharing it with others in a way which can be understood.

☞ **Prophesying** = sharing **a word or idea from the Lord**. This can include predicting the future, but may simply be a word from God that instructs, inspires, or initiates an action. Many times, in the Old Testament, the prophets gave instruction to others as the Spirit of God led them, which in turn inspired the people and initiated a God-ordained plan of action. People with this



gift typically want to make sure things are done right and in a godly way. This gift is included every time spiritual gifts are mentioned in the bible, so it must be an important one.

☞ **Teaching = give instruction and understanding.** This gift is intended to explain complex ideas in such a way that everyone can understand. A person with this gift generally likes to research and study in order to identify truth. Though this person may have a better understanding of the bible than most, they are not driven to demonstrate their knowledge as much as they are motivated to help others understand it as well.

We all need to hear the word of the Lord and grow in our understanding. These gifts are ☞ essential for knowing **the mind of Christ**. While all believers can prophesy and teach, typically, there are only a few who excel in these gifts.

☞ The **Gifts of Inspiration** here are encouraging and mercy. These gifts lift people up and spur them on to follow the will of the Lord.

☞ **Encouraging = come alongside; comfort; strengthen;** also admonish. This gift helps others who are down, discouraged, or even delinquent. The person with this gift usually wants to lift others up and instill hope in people's hearts and minds. This gift tends to see the possibilities and the positives in every situation. The person with this gift has the knack of seeing God's hand at work in every situation as well as the ability to stir others up to follow God's will. They are often the eternal optimist.

☞ **Mercy = sympathy; compassion.** This gift is similar to encouraging, but tends more toward identifying with the person who is down and discouraged. Encouragers want people to get past their troubles, while mercy givers are content to simply be there for others. The person with this gift is generally kind and gentle and are very often drawn to those who are hurting. This gift needs cheerfulness. God doesn't want people to stay down in the dumps, so mercy is a dish which should be served with a side of joy. The word for cheerfulness is also where we get our word for hilarious. I think the idea is to show mercy with the intent of lifting others up out of their discouragement.

Every one of us occasionally needs mercy or an encouraging word. These spiritual gifts are ☞ essential for **the morale of the church**. While some excel in these gifts, we are all called to show mercy and to encourage each other.

☞ The **Gifts of Initiation** here are serving, giving, and leadership. These gifts are all about fulfilling the will of the Lord through action.

☞ **Serving = in general, helping** others as needed. This gift is very practical in meeting needs. The person with this gift enjoys **doing** hands-on work and carrying out the instructions of others. This gift makes itself available frequently for those who need help. The person with this gift tends to be task oriented and might say to others, "just tell me what you need and I'll take care of it." They are doers. This gift may not seem as spiritual as some others, but it is an important spiritual gift nonetheless.



☞ **Giving** = share what you have. This gift **provides** the resources for a project which is instructed and inspired by God. This gift also enjoys being a blessing to others in need. The person with this gift typically likes to spend what they have on others more than on themselves. If they can provide for someone in need, then they are happy. This person also loves to financially back a God-led directive. While those with the serving gift are doing what needs to be done, the givers are supplying what is needed to accomplish the task. This spiritual gift is meant to be exercised generously, without ulterior motive. In fact, the best givers are often unseen and they like it that way.

☞ **Leadership** = to preside; **oversee**; guard. This gift organizes the other gifts and sets a course of action to complete a task. The Holy Spirit gives the spiritual gift of leadership to some in the church to care for God's people and lead them into deeper relationship with Christ and each other. The person with this gift bases their success on how well they help others succeed and grow in their spiritual walk with Jesus. This gift is also very concerned about protecting those under their care and making sure others are equipped to fulfill their own calling. This gift requires diligence, genuine concern and commitment. True leaders do not give up easily.

☞ These gifts are essential for carrying out **the mission of the Kingdom**. There are many that excel in serving and giving, but all of us are called to serve and give and a few are called to lead.

Table talk: Which gifts do you see in each other/yourself?

☞ **Start Timer**

These can seem like simply natural tendencies in people but according to the word of God, they are all gifts of the Spirit. When you see them as Motivational Gifts it helps to understand why you do what you do for Christ. These gifts all work together and often overlap, with individuals having various combinations. As well, most of **these Motivational Gifts are things we are all supposed to do whether we are especially gifted or not.**

Think about a church project... the prophet can share a word from the Lord which gets the project started. The teacher explains the why and how behind the project. The leader organizes and directs the troops. The giver finances the project. The server gets busy doing the steps necessary. The encourager keeps egging everyone on. And the merciful lifts those up who may ☞ have fallen behind. **These all work together beautifully to accomplish God's purposes.** These are all gifts which demonstrate the Power of the Holy Spirit.

Song: The Power of Your Presence