

The Holy Spirit
Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lesson #7 for May 13, 2006

Scriptures: Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-23; Ephesians 4:1-16.

1. What comes to your mind when you hear the expression “spiritual gifts”? Do you have one or more spiritual gifts? Do you understand clearly what your spiritual gifts are?
2. Did the disciples seem to have any idea about what was coming at Pentecost? Is it possible that God manifests Himself in certain ways in our world and we don't even recognize it?
3. **What do you think would happen if we as individuals or as a group were totally open within our human limitations to the workings of the Holy Spirit as the disciples were at Pentecost?** How do you think the Holy Spirit would actually manifest Himself today? Do we have any idea? If we did know might we be more caught up with thinking about the gift instead of the Giver?
4. Jesus said to the disciples: ¹³“**And I will do whatever you ask for in my name**, so that the Father's glory will be shown through the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it!” (John 14:13,14, *GNB*) Did He really mean this? What should we be asking for? How might it be manifest?
5. What would it take for us to be totally receptive to the Holy Spirit?
6. Paul discusses spiritual gifts mainly in three different places: Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12-14; and Ephesians 4:7-13. One thing is apparent from these passages: there is a good variety of gifts.
7. Some modern Pentecostal organizations stress that anyone who is truly Christian should have the gift of tongues. Do you see any indication of this in the passages by Paul?
8. **How many spiritual gifts could one person have?** Could one person have all the spiritual gifts?
9. Think of the ways the Holy Spirit was manifest in Scripture. Could the Holy Spirit be manifest in one of us as a championship athlete? What about Samson? Do we limit God's ability to work with us because of our finite ideas about what is possible?
10. “Just as soon as the people of God are **sealed in their foreheads—it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved—just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come.**” (MS 173, 1902). *S.D.A. Bible Commentary* Vol. 4, p. 1161; *LDE* 219; *Maranatha* 200; *FLB* 287; *1MR* 249,250; *10MR* 252. Might the Holy Spirit be trying to do this for us right now?
11. If we could have access to this kind of Holy Spirit power might we be tempted to use it somehow for our own means? Do you think it might be possible in our day that someone could be given the gift of tongues and be able to speak any language in the world fluently? What would you do with such a gift? Might you be tempted to use it for personal gain?
12. “There must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. Only those who are living up to the light they have, will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize **the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.**” {RH, March 2, 1897 par. 4; TM 507; LDE 195.4; Mar 219.3; FLB 333.6} Could this be happening now?

13. "These scenes are to be repeated, and with greater power. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was the former rain, but the latter rain will be more abundant. **The Spirit awaits our demand and reception.** Christ is again to be revealed in His fulness by the Holy Spirit's power." {COL 121.1}
- "**The power of God awaits their demand and reception.** This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train. It is given according to the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive."--The Desire of Ages, p. 672. {ChS 253.1}
14. Do modern Seventh-day Adventist churches need all of the spiritual gifts among their members? Why? Should even a small church expect to have all the gifts?
15. **Would the Holy Spirit bless us with this kind of power if we were not prepared to correctly represent the Gospel to the world? If the Holy Spirit were poured out on us would that mean we would have to be committed 100% of the time and 100% of our lives to spreading the gospel? Are we ready for that?**
16. Are we certain that we understand exactly how the manifestation of tongues in the Corinthian church took place? Were some of those people speaking real languages but using them in a way to exclude members of the church who didn't understand those languages?
17. "He who loves Christ the most will do the greatest amount of good. **There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, [251] makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God.** If men will endure the necessary discipline, without complaining or fainting by the way, God will teach them hour by hour, and day by day. He longs to reveal His grace. **If His people will remove the obstructions, He will pour forth the waters of salvation in abundant streams through the human channels. If men in humble life were encouraged to do all the good they could do, if restraining hands were not laid upon them to repress their zeal, there would be a hundred workers for Christ where now there is one.**" {DA 250.4}
18. What kind of things do you think the Holy Spirit will give? Could the Holy Spirit give us a complete university education in a few minutes? Could he give us a position in an influential church or business?
19. **Why does the Holy Spirit give gifts? What is He hoping to accomplish through these gifts?**
20. **Does God need our help to win the great controversy?**
21. If the Holy Spirit began to be manifest in our church, would we like some other groups have, tend to divide ourselves between those who had received the Spirit and those who hadn't?
22. The longest passage about spiritual gifts is in 1 Corinthians 12-14. Why was this passage written? If you had asked the people at Corinth to explain spiritual gifts what do you think they would have said?
23. Were other spiritual gifts given at Pentecost? Or was everybody given the ability to speak foreign languages?
24. **When God gives of Himself does He take complete control? Could you say excuse me I'd like a timeout? Or might the Holy Spirit be manifest only on Sabbath?**
25. Paul uses the human body as an illustration of the fact that different persons need to have different gifts for the whole to function as a unit. Is the church like that too?
26. **Is it possible that God gives spiritual gifts to different individuals in order to force us**

to work together despite diversity?

27. How do you feel about the diversity in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 2006? What used to be a North-American church is now a world church and the members are predominantly in Central and South America, Africa, and India. Since the majority of members live in these places should the church administration be dominated by members from there? Why? Or why not?
28. It should be clear that diversity should not equal disunity. Can you think of some instances where diversity has apparently torn apart churches or other sub-groups within the church? What was the problem?
29. To what degree would you say the Seventh-day Adventist Church is lacking unity in 2006? What do you think are the causes for such a lack of cohesion?
30. **Does God give spiritual gifts to different individuals so that He can test us to see if we are willing to work in noncompetitive harmony with one another before we enter the kingdom of heaven?**
31. Look at the list of gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12. They could be divided more or less as follows: 1) wisdom and knowledge; 2) miracles and healing; 3) prophecy and administration; and 4) tongues. Do we need some of each of these gifts in each church today?
32. Are spiritual gifts genetically inherited? How are they given? Does our capacity for expressing or using spiritual gifts change over time?
33. **Shouldn't the ultimate goal for spiritual gifts in the ministry of the Holy Spirit be to prepare a people for the second coming of Christ? What would you say is the biggest single need to prepare us for that second coming?**
34. Why do you think that 1 Corinthians 13, the great chapter on love, is found right in the middle of Paul's discussion of spiritual gifts?
35. What do you think is implied by "the word of wisdom"? What is "the word of knowledge"? What is the spiritual gift called "faith"? Is there a special relationship between wisdom, knowledge and faith?
36. Why is it that some people can study the truth or listen to the truth in church and Sabbath School for years and not seem to comprehend a word? Some of the greatest Bible "scholars" have actually been nonbelievers!
37. Read 1 Corinthians 2:3-4. "So when I came to you, I was weak and trembled all over with fear, ⁴ and my teaching and message were not delivered with skillful words of human wisdom, but with convincing proof of the power of God's Spirit." **What do you think was Paul's "convincing proof of the power of God's Spirit"?** What is the basis of faith?
38. Can you think of any body of knowledge or wisdom that has had a major life-changing effect on you? How did you go about establishing your paradigm of faith? Why do some kinds of information have more impact upon us than others? Can we detect from just listening whether words from an individual have real wisdom or not?
39. The lesson suggests that those who have the gift of knowledge and wisdom are able to distinguish between the true and the false and to recognize Satan's deceptions especially those that come in religious disguise! **Doesn't this sound like a gift that every Christian needs?** What is the difference between the gifts of knowledge and wisdom and the gift of "discerning of spirits"? (1 Corinthians 12:10)
40. **What is the role of miracle in "spiritual gifts"?** What will be the role of miracle in the latter rain? It gets people's attention! It will not make any decisions for you, it just gets your

attention.

41. Is God likely to perform miracles to do for us what we could actually do for ourselves?
42. Could you define a miracle? What will be God's reason for giving the gift of miracles at the end of time? Will miracles somehow make the spread of the Gospel move more quickly? Will we need miracles to protect us from the world?
43. The section for Tuesday, May 9 says that: "miracles, someone once said, are deemed miracles only because of their infrequency." What is implied by these words?
44. Can you think of any miracles either in ancient times or in more recent times that have served to strengthen your faith? How does this work?
45. Many TV evangelists claim to have the ability to work miracles—particularly miracles of healing on television. Why do they use this technique? Does it get attention? Do the people need to be healed? After working the miracles what do the miracle workers claim? Miracles are never intended to substitute for compliance with God's other laws, natural or spiritual. God apparently uses supernatural abilities to help us get around or through supernatural obstacles.
46. **At the end of time we are told that Satan will also work miracles. How would you go about distinguishing between a miracle performed by God and one performed by Satan?** What do you expect to see at that point?
47. Perhaps the greatest gift of all in Paul's mind was the gift of "prophecy". What is this gift? Why is it so important? What is the primary work of a prophet?
48. The primary function of a prophet is to speak for or on behalf of another individual. God's prophet speaks on God's behalf.
49. Can you name individuals in your circle of friends who have the gifts of 1) apostles 2) teachers 3) miracle workers 4) healers 5) helpers 6) directors even 7) speakers in tongues? What is each of the gifts supposed to accomplish for the church body?
50. Does the church need an organized structure in order to benefit from these gifts? Think of how many ways organized churches influenced the ministry of Paul. He was helped by Ananias and later was given his anointing by the church at Antioch. Does God still plan to work primarily through groups of people instead of through individuals? Why? Or why not?
51. In our world today administrators and directors are often chosen as a result of political campaigns of various kinds. **What does politics have to do with spiritual gifts?**
52. **Do you think the true gift of tongues will be manifested at the end of time as a part of the latter rain? Why? Or why not?**
53. What was the gift of tongues as manifested at Corinth? Look at Paul's arguments in 1 Corinthians 14. In what way do you think Paul spoke in tongues more than any of the others? Was Paul very good at speaking unknown tongues?
54. Are we ready for the latter rain? The outpouring of the Holy Spirit? Why? Or, why not?

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