

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT by SAM FIFE

This is a study on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and how to receive Him from the scriptures. We present this study to all those whose hearts are hungry to receive the fulness of God and all that God has to offer them in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is particularly presented for those who must understand fully from the Word, God's Provision for them before they can yield to the Holy Spirit and receive that which God provided for them.

We find that there are many earnest Christians in the world today who are hungry for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Many of them have been seeking for some years but are hindered by misconceptions, misplaced expressions, and incorrect terms that have been used. Many feel that they have to go through the same emotional ecstasy someone else experienced. They have failed to see that the scriptures reveal to us just what the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is and how it can be received without excess emotionalism, without feeling one has to imitate or to emulate the experience of another. Only by yielding themselves fully to the Spirit of God that dwells within them can He immerse them, baptize them, 'baptizo' them in His precious self so that they may experience all of the fullness of God.

Take your Bible and turn to the 14th chapter of John. We find that beginning in the 14th chapter of John and running through Acts 2 in the scripture, we have a pattern which reveals to us exactly what the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is and exactly how we can receive it.

John 14:15-16 says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever." Now in order to fully understand the words of Jesus, we first need to understand that in the 13th through 16th chapters of John we have recorded the last teachings that Jesus gave to His disciples the last night that He was with them.

The 13th chapter finds them in the upper room. They had partaken of the communion and Jesus washed their feet. When He finished, He sat down and knowing that very night He was going to be crucified, buried, raised again, and ascend up to Heaven and leave them, He said, "If you love me keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter."

Up until this time, Jesus had been their Comforter and had been with them three years. When they were out on the Sea of Galilee and the ship was about to sink, they ran to Jesus screaming, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" (Mark 4:38) Jesus arose and calmed the tempest and comforted them. But now He said that He was going away. He was going to send them someone else to take His place, someone who will be to them all that He was to them while He was with them. That other person was the Holy Spirit.

"Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him, for he dwelleth with you and shall be in you." (John 14:17) This is the first great truth we need to have planted in our consciousness in order to be able to receive the Holy Spirit. He is the one who is sent to be our Comforter not Jesus. It is not in God's plan or in God's provision for Jesus personally to be our comforter. Another was sent, and that other one is the Holy Spirit. He is the one with whom we have to have experienced. We cannot have an experience directly with Jesus. We must have an experience with Jesus through the Holy Spirit. He is sent to reveal Jesus to us. He is sent to glorify Jesus to us. He is sent to enable us to love Jesus.

Romans 5:5 says "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." He is the one who enables us to adore Jesus. We can have every experience with Jesus through Him, but we cannot have any experience with Jesus bypassing Him. This is the problem with so many Christians in the world today. They are trying to have an experience with Jesus without going through the Holy Spirit. Many try to draw their comfort from reading and remembering the things that Jesus did 1900 years ago when He was in the flesh upon the earth without any real experience with the Holy Spirit at all.

Consider this dear friend. God knew that these disciples who lived only weeks, months, and years after Jesus' earthly sojourn could not draw their comfort from merely remembering the things Jesus did while He was here, but needed to give another Comforter sent to them. How much more you and I who live over 1900 years after His earthly sojourn need this other Comforter. You cannot have fellowship with Jesus bypassing the Holy Spirit. You cannot have any experience at all with Jesus except through the

Holy Spirit. He is Jesus in the world. He is Jesus at the point you and I have experienced. It is only through the Holy Spirit that we can experience Jesus.

Too many have not had this truth settled in their hearts. Too many are having experiences with their church, their preachers, and their fellow Christians. They are not having an experience with Jesus because they are not filled and yielded to and led by the Holy Spirit continually. They do not seek union and fellowship with the Holy Spirit neither do they seek the manifestation of the Holy Spirit or the gifts of the Spirit. They deceive themselves into thinking that they are having all the experience God wants for them by going directly to Jesus. It cannot be so, my friends.

You cannot pray except you pray in the Spirit. This is why so many Christians are not getting their prayers answered. They are praying in the flesh. They are not praying in the Spirit at all, and therefore, they are not having any sort of experience with Jesus at all. They are only going through a fleshly form that may give them a measure of fleshly blessing, but it has no efficiency with God in any way. Settle in your hearts, dear friends, you need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. You need to have daily experiences with the other Comforter, the Holy Spirit. Once this is settled in your heart and you begin to be hungry for that experience with Jesus through Him, then you are beginning to prepare to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said to His disciples that He would send another Comforter whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him." These are the two reasons the peoples of the world and the worldly Christians (who are of the world when they walk in the fleshly things of this world) cannot receive the Holy Spirit. First, they cannot see Him. In their worldly wisdom and their worldly conceit, they think they are very wise. He is invisible, and they are not willing to believe in someone they cannot see. Secondly, they do not know Him.

Now there is a difference in knowing about someone and knowing someone. You may know about someone who lives on the other side of town. You may know how many children they have. You may know what kind of work they do. You may even know what kind of car they drive and their address, you may know all those things about them, but you will never know them until you have met them, have shaken hands with them and have a personal experience and fellowship with them. Then you can say you are beginning to know them.

When I graduated from theological seminary, I knew many things about the Holy Spirit that I learned through the study of the Bible. I knew that He was the Third Person in the Trinity. He was the Author of the scriptures. He was the Teacher, the Comforter, the Guide. I knew all these things about Him, but I could not say that I knew Him until that night some years ago.

I was kneeling in prayer, and He began to move within me. I felt that moving, and suddenly I was immersed in Him, baptized in Him. He took control of my tongue, and I found myself praising my heavenly Father in another tongue. Then I was having a personal experience and fellowship with Him. Then I was beginning to know Him. God was no longer a set of theological promises in my mind, but I was having a personal experience and fellowship with the Holy One of Israel.

Since then I have had hundreds of experiences with Him. Twenty times a day when I think of Jesus, I am suddenly filled with Him, and I find myself praising my Heavenly Father in that heavenly tongue. He gives me the praise words to utter. Often He speaks to me in visions, and a few times in my life in an audible voice. Daily I am getting to know Him better and better.

Continuing on to verse 18 in the 14th chapter of John, Jesus says, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." Here we have an apparent contradiction. In verse 16 Jesus says, "And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another, Comforter." But when we know that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are in perfect union with one another, that they are one, then we know what Jesus meant. He would come to them and comfort them after He was gone, through His union in the Holy Spirit.

Verse 19 spoken by Jesus says, "Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me; because I live, ye shall live also." Jesus said that in a little while, the world would not see Him because He was going to ascend up to Heaven. Then He told His disciples that they would see Him. In the original language, He did not mean actually looking upon Him visibly but beholding His presence speaking of that day when the other Comforter would come to them.

Verse 20 says, "At that day we shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you." You see, beloved, it was never God's plan for us to just go on believing all our lives that we have the Spirit of Christ in us. We believe first, yes, but it was God's plan for us to know that He is in us. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the provision that God had made whereby we may know experientially that He is in us through His revealing of Himself to us in the many manifestations that are listed in the scriptures.

Before I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, I believed that the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ dwelled within me because I knew the Bible teaches that any man that hath not the Spirit of Christ is none of His. I accepted the theological promise by faith that it was so. But that night some years ago when He began to move within me, I felt His moving and it became too precious and powerful within me. Then when He took my tongue, I found myself speaking in another tongue. Now I do not just believe He is in me, I know He is in me. That is the difference. That is why it was provided by God, dear friends, so that you might know that He is in you. It is your confirmation.

Many churches today have what is called a confirmation service for a child when it reaches a certain age or for an adult. They are brought before the authorities of the church, and they lay hands on them. They are said to be confirmed. The confirmation is to be an evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit but there is no supernatural experience to make them know that the Holy Spirit is in them. They simply go through the form, and they go away exactly like they were before.

Little Janie when she is 12 years old gets her finest dress. The father goes to church for the first time in months sometimes years. Little Janie goes through the form. She is very proud of her new dress and the way she looks. But little Janie has had no more experience with God than the man in the moon. She goes away and does not really know what went on.

This is simply a deterioration, a form that has degenerated from what was once a powerful reality during the first century Christianity when they held their confirmation services as described in the 8th chapter of Acts. They laid hands upon those who had believed, and the Bible says they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues and prophesied. As late as the 4th century, Augustine writes that when they laid hands upon the converts, they were expected to speak in other tongues. This is the reality. This is the true confirmation service and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The manifestation of the gift of tongues, prophecy, visions, etc. is God's confirmation service. It is God's confirmation that He has given to us after we have believed on Jesus as our personal Saviour that we might know, yea, that He even dwells within us.

Theologically it is presented to us in the old testament on Israel's Day of Atonement. When the high priest entered into the Holy of Holies with the blood of the lamb in his hands, all the people would stand outside the Tabernacle waiting for him to come out. The high priest had little bells on the bottom of his robe. As long as they would hear the bells during the time He was in the Holy of Holies, they knew that He had not died. There was yet hope. But they could not have their full assurance that God had accepted their offering of the blood of the Lamb that they had sent in with the high priest until the high priest came back out to them. This is why they stood outside waiting. When the high priest came out, they had an absolute confirmation that their offering had been accepted by God.

This type was fulfilled when Jesus, the great high priest, 1900 years ago left the earth and entered into the true Holy of Holies with the blood of the true lamb in His hands, yea, His own blood. He told His little group of followers to wait there for Him to return to them. "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." He would come in the person of the Holy Spirit. While He was gone these disciples had stirrings and whisperings in their hearts, and they had great hope. This is the tinkling of the bells the children of Israel heard while the high priest was in the Holy of Holies. But it was when the Spirit was poured out (Acts 2:4) upon them in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost that they knew that their High Priest had returned to them. Their offering they had sent by Him had been acceptable to the Father.

This was referring to the whole church that was there that day. But this has its application to your individual life, my, dear Christian friend. When you believe on Jesus as your personal Saviour, you are sending Jesus by faith into the true Holy of Holies, the presence of God, with His blood in His hands as your high priest. Know that it is true that before you receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit we can have stirrings of the Spirit in our hearts. We can have leadings from the Spirit. I had many as a minister before I received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. But, those are only the tinkling of the bells.

It is not until we have been baptized into the Holy Spirit, immersed in Him, and He manifests Himself through us with the precious gift of another tongue (this is the manifestation God has chosen as a sign to us and the unbelievers) that the high priest has returned. It is then that we have our confirmation. It is then that we know we have moved out of the realm of faith and are now looking into the realm of experience. It is then that we know that our offering is accepted. It is then that we know the Holy Spirit dwells within us.

Forever after that as we yield ourselves to Him, He manifests Himself through us by the many gifts of the Spirit (I Cor. 12:8-10).

We are continually assured that He is with us. Dear friend, it is God's plan for you to know that He is in you and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is that provision, that confirmation.

Then Jesus said in verse 21, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. (continuing on in the chapter) Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

In the King James version, it says 'abode with him', but in the original language it says 'within'. You see Judas had just heard Jesus say, "Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more" to His disciples. Judas wondered how Jesus was going to reveal Himself to them and the world was not going to get in on it. He asked the Lord.

The Lord answered in essence, "I'll do it by the Father and I coming in the person of the Holy Spirit and living within you " He was going to reveal Himself from within, and this is God's wonderful plan for revealing Himself to those who love Him, believe in Jesus, and the world does not get in on it.

Often people come into our services. As we lift up our hands and adore Jesus, one may see a person begin to tremble under the power of the Spirit of God. They may see another person burst forth speaking in a strange language, another give the interpretation, another begin to prophesy. They might see someone stand up and say, I saw thus and thus in a vision. And they are just standing there looking on. By outside appearances, they may think we are crazy.

They do not know what is going on inside of us. They do not know that Jesus is in there manifesting Himself from within just as He said He would.

As they looked at one teen-age girl standing with her arms uplifted, lost in adoration of Jesus, all they would see is a teen-age girl standing with her hands up and her eyes closed. They would not know what is going on inside her. They do not know that as she stands there, the curtain of darkness which you see when you close your eyes dispels and suddenly she begins seeing a vision just as if you were looking at a motion picture screen. This is Jesus revealing Himself from within yielded vessels,

(At this point on the tape Bro. Fife spoke in tongues. The following is the interpretation:) "For the Lord would say to thee, my children, I shall not reveal Myself unto thee in the natural, but I will reveal Myself to thee in the Spirit. For I have called thee, not to walk in the flesh, but I have called thee to walk in the Spirit, saith the Lord thy God."

So this is Jesus' wonderful plan for revealing Himself to those who love Him and believe in Him. He reveals Himself to them from within. The skeptics, unbelievers, the people of the world including the worldly Christians cannot get in on the revelation.

Now when we sum up this promise of Jesus, we find that Jesus said to them, "I am going away, but I will send you another comforter. It will be the Holy Spirit. When He comes you will know that I am in you for I will reveal Myself to you from within." This is the promise that Jesus made to His disciples before He left them that night in the upper room. Chapters 15 through 17 of John tells how that same night Jesus was arrested, then tried, crucified, buried and raised again the third day.

Turn in your Bibles to John 20:19. We have recorded for us the first appearance that Jesus made to His disciples after He arose from the dead. We have just studied the last night He was with them before He died. Now we have recorded for us by John the first appearance to them after His resurrection.

John 20:19. Then the-same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. 20. And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then

were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord. 21. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.

Now do you remember back in John 14 at the Lord's supper table Jesus had said to these disciples speaking of the Holy Spirit, "he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." He was with them there that night in the upper room, but He was not in them yet. The reason was that God did not give the Holy Spirit to dwell in them until after Jesus was crucified.

The reason was until the atoning blood of Jesus was shed to atone for our sins and make us clean vessels, Holy God could not dwell in sinful flesh. The scripture makes it clear that the Holy Spirit was not given until after the atonement of Jesus.

John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink 38. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

There it is. We are definitely told that the Spirit of God was not given to dwell in man until after the atonement of Jesus. It is true we read in the old testament that during the old testament period, the Holy Spirit came upon a certain chosen few prophets to be used of God for the purpose of redemption, but the Bible says He was not given to dwell in men until after Jesus was crucified or glorified.

Therefore, as they sat at the Lord's supper table (John 14) the night before He left them, and because it was before His crucifixion, Jesus said to them, "He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." But now as we study in John 20:19, His atoning blood had been shed to make them clean vessels to open the way for Holy God to dwell in sinful flesh. Therefore, the very first thing that Jesus did at His first appearance to them after His resurrection was to breathe on them saying, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." He imparted to them the Holy Spirit.

These disciples were representatives of all the Church that would come after them, because the Bible says they are the foundation stones upon which we are built. Therefore, from that day forth their experience was a pattern for our experience. From that day until now every person who has ever believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour, at that point, at the moment that they believed in Jesus, God breathed on them, and the Holy Spirit indwelt them.

The word for spirit in the original Greek was the word 'pneuma' which means God's breath or the breath of God. And you dear Christian friend at the point, yea, at the very moment that you believed on Jesus as your Saviour God breathed on you and the Holy Spirit indwells you. This is what happened to the first disciples at Jesus' first appearance to them. But this was not the fulfillment of the promise He had made to them. Nothing happened here to make them know that He was in them. Silently the Holy Spirit entered into them and took up His abode. At the point when you accepted Jesus as your Saviour and was born again, nothing happened to make you know that He had entered into you. What the disciples experienced was a preparation for the confirmation, preparation for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Even so with you, there is a difference between your regeneration and your confirmation. There is a difference between your being born again of the Spirit and being baptized in the Spirit. At the point where the Holy Spirit enters you that is your regeneration experience. That is when He indwells you. But that is only preparation for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit which is your confirmation. So if you turn to Acts I we will see how Jesus continued to fulfill the promise to the disciples.

Acts 1:4 records the last appearance Jesus made to His followers. He had led them outside Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives, and he was just about to ascend up. 4 And being assembled together with them commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

What promise was Jesus talking about? The promise that He made made back at the Lord's supper table in John 14, that the other Comforter would come. He said when that promise was fulfilled not many days from now, "ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost."

Now there are two important truths revealed to us here. First there is a distinct difference between the indwelling of the Spirit when we receive salvation and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. You see these

disciples that Jesus was talking to here in Acts I had already been indwelt with the Spirit 40 days before at Jesus' first appearance to them when He breathed on them and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." But now Jesus says you still have something else coming to you which is the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Even so it is with you, dear friend. At the point where you believed on Jesus as your Saviour, God breathed on you and you were indwelt with the Holy Spirit, You still have something else coming. This is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, your confirmation service.

The second great truth we learn here in the wording of Jesus. We learn exactly what the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is. For you see Jesus did not use the word 'Baptize' for it is an English word. He spoke in Greek so He used the Greek word 'Baptizo' which means to be immersed in' or 'completely in an element. So Jesus' disciples who understood Greek understood Jesus to say that they would be completely in the Spirit, immersed in the Spirit not many days from then.

That is what the Baptism of the Holy Spirit really is, dear friend. It is simply being immersed in the Spirit. It is simply getting completely in the Holy Spirit and out of yourself. It is getting out of the natural and into the Spirit, out of the flesh and into the Spirit. It is simply yielding yourself to the Spirit of God that is within you until you are lost in Him, fully surrendered, fully yielded, until your whole being is fully under His control. When you have surrendered every portion, He will take full control by manifesting Himself through you by enabling you to speak in a language that you have never spoken or learned before. Then many other gifts and manifestations of the Spirit will come in time as a result of your yielding to the Spirit. I will have more to say about that later on.

Acts 2 reveals the complete fulfillment of the promise. 1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The Day of Pentecost was ten days after Jesus' ascension. They were all in one accord in one place. What were they doing? They were waiting on the promise just like Jesus told them to do. They were in prayer. As they were yielding in prayer, suddenly they all heard a strange sound, like a rushing mighty wind. Each one could see a vision of a flame of fire in a shape of a cloven tongue hanging over his brother's head. Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

It is important that you understand what happened here. It was not that the Holy Spirit suddenly fell down upon them from above. He was already in them. Jesus had breathed on them and He had entered into them 50 days before. What happened was that as they were yielding themselves in prayer, the Holy Spirit within them began to move within. He filled them from within. Soon they were lost in the Spirit praising Him, and He manifested Himself to them by enabling them to speak in other tongues.

Please notice that we said enabling them to speak in other tongues, not causing or making them. The Holy Spirit does not make us do anything ever, He enables us. If at anytime you are forced to speak in tongues or do anything else without your cooperation, then you run from that spirit because it is a demon spirit. Only as we yield to the Holy Spirit and cooperate with Him will He enable us to bring forth the manifestation of the Spirit of God. As the disciples yielded themselves to the Spirit of God within them, as they surrendered their whole being to Him, as they got in the Spirit, He took control and manifested Himself through them in the evidence of other tongues.

This is what will happen to you, dear friend, when you are baptized in the Holy Spirit. Do not expect anything to fall upon you from above. Do not spend any time praying and begging God to give you the Holy Spirit for you already have Him dwelling within you.

You do not need to beg God for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as God gave you the Baptism of the Holy Spirit over 1900 years ago when Christ hung on Calvary as He did the other blessings that are in Christ. You simply yield yourselves to the Spirit that dwells within you, in faith, expecting to receive. Surrender your whole being up to Him. Get out of the natural and into the Spirit. When you have yielded yourself completely to Him, including your tongue, when you have at last released your tongue also to the Holy Spirit, He will take full control. You will be in Him, and you will be immersed in Him. You will be

baptized in Him. He will be in full control and able to manifest Himself through you enabling you to speak in other tongues. As a result of that, all the other gifts of the Spirit will come forth in you ultimately.

The problem with some people is that surrendering and yielding is not any easy thing to do. Many are not willing to surrender fully to the Holy Spirit. Others have been in the habit of controlling their being, their tongue, their hands, their arms, their legs and their life. It has become such a hard set pattern and habit for them, it is hard for them to surrender to someone else who dwells within. This is what receiving the Holy Spirit really means, simply yielding your whole being to the Spirit that already dwells within your vessel, your house.

This term 'receiving the Holy Spirit' has been misunderstood by many causing misconception. Many have taken it to mean receiving the Holy Spirit for the first time. Many have gone and thought that one does not even have the Holy Spirit indwelling them until they have been baptized in the Holy Spirit. This is not true.

Once in Acts 8 we are told that Philip went down to Samaria and had a great revival and many believed and were baptized in Jesus' name. When the other apostles in Jerusalem heard that these believers had believed and been saved, they sent Peter and John down to pray for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit for as yet it had fallen on none of them, all of them that had been baptized in the name of Jesus. It is used again in Acts 19 where Paul came into Ephesus. He found certain believers and said unto them, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?"

We can best illustrate the true meaning of this term to you this way. Suppose I enter into your house, and you were sitting at your desk working on your books. I sat down on your living room couch and you ignored me. You did not look up but continued on with your work, and I sat there for hours with you ignoring me. Well, I am in your house, but you have not received me yet. Then after hours, you look up and say, "Oh! Hello Brother Fife. I am so glad to see you." Then you come and shake my hand, put your arm around me and say, "I am glad to have you in my house. In fact I am so glad I want to turn the whole house over to you." Then you have received me. This is the way it is with the Holy Spirit, beloved. At the point where we say He enters into our vessel, our body, He is always there trying to get our attention. We have been going our own way for a long time, and as Christians even, we keep going our own way failing to yield, failing to surrender the whole house to Him.

He is continually seeking to lead us to a point of prayer where we receive Him. When we do, He will take our whole house, and we will be immersed in Him. We will be completely in the Spirit.

One person came to me and said, "Brother Fife, I would like to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. I would like the power, but I do not want to speak in tongues." Well that person has just said, "Holy Spirit, I will let you have every other portion of my being, but I will not let you have my tongue to do as you see fit." That person will never receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Another person has seen someone receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and when the power of the Spirit came upon them, their hands began to tremble.

Perhaps their whole body began to tremble. A timid personality in them would be embarrassed if someone saw them doing that. So they will not yield to the Holy Spirit, because they are afraid their hands might tremble. That person has just said, "Holy Spirit, I will let you have every portion of my being, but I will not let you have my hands." They will never receive the Holy Spirit. Another person would say, "Brother Fife, I have surrendered my life to the Holy Spirit." That is well, but what they mean is they have surrendered their future life that they live to the Holy Spirit. That is not surrendering your whole being, including your body over to the Holy Spirit and God wants all.

Then another person, and this one is the primary means of failure in so many cases, comes to God to yield to the Holy Spirit that He might fill them, and then they lift their hands and start begging God, "Oh God please fill me with the Holy Spirit. Oh God please give me the Holy Spirit. Oh God please baptize me into the Holy Spirit." This person is blocking the Holy Spirit more than any other, because you see, they have their tongue wagging so fast that the Holy Spirit can never get hold of it when He wants. He would have to knock them down before He could ever shake them loose and make them let go of their own tongue and cease controlling it with their own mind.

I remember well an experience that illustrates this. My wife and I were preaching a revival in the city of Houston, Texas. We were staying with a rather wealthy family. About seven o'clock one morning a

maid came and knocked on our bedroom door. She had brought a colored friend of hers to work who wanted the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. She asked if we would come and pray with her. We arose and dressed and went to the living room. We sat down and we talked to Mary about the things we have shared with you. Then I said, "Mary, now lift up your hands. We are going to let God fill you." Mary's hands shot up in the air, and she began begging God. "Please Jesus, please Jesus." Of course nothing happened. In a minute I stopped her and said, "Mary, stop begging God for something you already have. The Holy Spirit is already in you. God gave you the Baptism of the Holy Spirit over 1900 years ago. You have your tongue wagging so fast, saying 'please Jesus' controlled by your own mind and spirit that the Holy Spirit can never get control of it. Just lift your hands and yield your whole being to Jesus releasing control of everything unto Him. Release your tongue also and in simple childlike faith speak out trusting Him. He will take control and enable you to worship your Heavenly Father in other tongues. He will immerse you in Himself." As she did so, in about 11 minutes she was completely immersed in the Spirit and completely in the Spirit speaking in tongues and magnifying God.

This brings us to one other truth that we want to share. Notice on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2:4. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Literally in the Greek it says they spoke in other tongues as the Spirit gave them 'the words to utter.' The Spirit gave them the words, but they did the speaking. It does not say the Spirit made them speak. It says as they spoke the Spirit gave them the words to utter.

This is where many people fail in receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. They kneel in prayer waiting for God to suddenly seize them, suddenly force them to begin speaking out in another tongue. God will never force you to do anything, dear friend. As you believe and yield, the Holy Spirit will take control of all that you yield to Him. When you are fully yielded to Him, by faith open your mouth and begin to Speak, not trying to speak in your own language. Because it is a physical impossibility to speak two languages at once, you must stop speaking English before you can start speaking Spanish. If you are trying to speak in your own language, controlling your own tongue by your own mind and spirit, you are shutting out the Holy Spirit. You are quenching Him. He can never get control.

I remember several years ago when my wife received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It was during the time when God was pouring out His Spirit upon our Southern Baptist Church. In three weeks' time everyone in the church received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, everyone that is, except my wife. She prayed with us at every prayer meeting and cried out to God, but nothing happened. I saw the day come when she got on her knees at six o'clock in the morning and stayed there until ten o'clock at night without moving and nothing happened. One night we were having a prayer meeting and several had received. I was so burdened for her that I called three of the men over and I said, "We are going to lay hands on her and believe God with so much faith that whatever is blocking her will be severed." She stood and lifted her hands. We stood and just believed for about five minutes. Suddenly she burst forth in the most hilarious laughter you have ever heard. It could be heard three blocks away. As she did the Spirit of the Lord came upon her and she was baptized in the Spirit. When it was over she said to me, "You know that is what I have been wanting to do everytime you prayed with me. At the very first of these three weeks, everytime you prayed I wanted to laugh so bad I could hardly contain myself. But I would not do it because I was taught you must be reverent when you pray. I thought you were not supposed to laugh." Then we all laughed for we learned a great lesson. The Spirit was trying to get control of her by urging her from within to laugh because He knew it was blocking her, but she was resisting and quenching Him with some preconceived idea that she had in her mind. She had heard preaching somewhere that said you are not supposed to laugh when you pray.

This is the difference between yielding to the Spirit and doing all things the way we think they should be done. When you are begging God, pleading with Him to give you the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, or when you are saying what you want to say with your understanding, you are shutting out the Spirit. You need to do none of these things, dear friend.

Go and get alone with God. lift your hands to Jesus surrendering your whole being to the precious Holy Spirit that already dwells within you. Release everything to Him including your tongue. Then

Speak out making no effort to speak in your own language by your own mind and spirit by trusting Him to give you the words to utter.

The minute you release control, He will take control and you will be immersed in the Spirit, baptized in the Spirit. When you begin speaking in tongues, do not stop. As long as you keep speaking, He will give you the words to utter. When you stop, you quench Him.

Go on and adore your Heavenly Father in the heavenly language until it becomes strong within you and you will be able to use it all the days of your life.

Go alone with the Lord now, dear friend, receive ye your Baptism of the Holy Spirit now. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

THE MANIFESTATIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We are going to study the nine gifts or manifestations of the Holy Spirit as they are listed and presented in I Corinthians 12 in the Scripture. This study is very important in the life of the Christian who has just received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an open door, a gateway through which we walk into a life in the Spirit. All other nine manifestations or gifts of the Spirit will begin to come forth in our lives. It is so important as soon as we receive our baptism into the Spirit so that we may know the true from the false.

The person who has just been baptized into the Holy Spirit has entered into a stage of his Christian growth and experience where he is susceptible to all sorts of spirits coming in and trying to give him false manifestations more than at any other time in his Christian experience.

Before he receives the Baptism of the Spirit, he is a Christian who refuses to yield and to obey messages that he receives from his spirit. He walks simply in his form of Christianity and refuses to allow himself to enter into any spiritual manifestations whatsoever. Therefore, he is protected a great deal from false manifestations of demon experiences. At the same time, he shuts out the true manifestations of the Holy Spirit. After one has been baptized in the Spirit, has been walking in the Spirit, after a good length of time he has become matured in these things, and he is enabled to recognize the true manifestations of the Spirit from demon spirits. Therefore, he is not as susceptible.

In this stage between the time one first receives the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the time one becomes matured in these things so he is able to discern the false from the true, he is particularly susceptible. Therefore, he needs to understand the nine true manifestations of the Spirit as presented in scripture so that he can discern the true from the false.

He is particularly susceptible because he has had a glorious experience with his Lord. He has been filled with the Spirit, and he has discovered that the Spirit will supernaturally manifest Himself to Him. He is determined at this point on to be led by the Spirit, not by the arm of the flesh, but by the Spirit of God. He is determined not to be led by his denomination or his religion. When he hears the voice of the Spirit, he wants to obey Him. He is determined to seek and receive the gifts of the Spirit or the manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

It is for this reason and at this point particularly that demon spirits will often sweep in and try to deceive him with false manifestations all for the purpose of discouraging him. By getting him bound up in a maze of confusion between the false and the true, by turning him away from the true, these demon spirits cause him to turn back and refuse to walk in the true manifestations and gifts of the Spirit. It is for this reason that we present this study on the gifts of the Spirit as revealed in I Corinthians 12 so that the newly baptized believer might know the gifts of the Spirit, what they are, how they operate, and how they are supposed to be used in God's divine plan and God's divine order for His Church.

Turn to I Corinthians 12, we will follow Paul as he began to teach his Corinthian Christians who had been baptized in the Holy Spirit. They had not been taught the correct purpose and use of the gifts of the Spirit, therefore, needed teaching in this area.

Verse 1, "Now concerning spiritual gifts brethren, I would not have you ignorant." This is a scripture that God spoke to me years ago when He poured His Spirit upon the Southern Baptist Church that I pastored. In three weeks' time all my people and I received the Baptism of the Spirit. During that time God also poured out revelation from His Word, and he brought me here to this scripture.

The Holy Spirit said to me, "It is not Paul speaking. God is the author of the scripture." Therefore, it is God who is saying, "concerning spiritual gifts, I would not have you ignorant." As a Southern Baptist preacher, I was completely ignorant of spiritual gifts, and I pastored a church full of good earnest Christians that were also completely ignorant. But, I saw then God did not want me or my people to be ignorant of those things. I got on my knees and kept praying. God kept pouring out revelation of the great truths which I will share with you in this study.

The first truth is that God, dear friend, does not want you to be ignorant concerning gifts of the Spirit. He wants you to understand these things also.

Verse 3, "Wherefore I give you to understand that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost." Here we have two great truths. No one who calls Jesus accursed, no one who says He is not the Lord, not the Christ is speaking by the Spirit of God. They are speaking by demon spirits. On the other hand, no man can say Jesus is His

Lord, unless there is a work of the Holy Spirit done in his life, unless the Holy Spirit has revealed it to him. How many people can say Jesus is the Lord when you ask them, "Do you know you are saved? Do you know Jesus as your Lord?" Then you separate the sheep from the goats. No man can say, "Jesus is my Lord, and I know that I am saved," except he be born again of the Spirit, regenerated by the Spirit of God.

Verse 4, Paul says, "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit." This is another great truth that we need to learn, beloved. This word diversities means "different kinds." The Apostle Paul says there are different kinds of gifts. Just because a person does not have the same gift that you have, it does not mean that his gift is not from God. You see, this was the problem in the Corinthian church. They had received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Paul had been with them for two years, but he had to spend most of his time evangelizing. He had led them into the Baptism of the Spirit, but did not have the time to teach them the full understanding of these things and the correct use of them.

So the Corinthian Christians were baptized in the Spirit, and had spiritual gifts operating in their midst. But, the fellow who spoke in tongues looked at the fellow who prophesied and said, "Perhaps your gift is not from God as it is not the same as mine." The fellow who prophesied said to the fellow who spoke in tongues "Perhaps your gift is not from God because it is not the same as mine."

The Baptists look at the Pentecostal brethren and says, "Your gift is not from God because I do not have it." It is not the same as I have because the Spirit is not manifesting Himself the same way through you as He is through me. Quite often the Pentecostals look at the Baptists and say, "You do not love the Lord like I do or else you would have already gone on your knees and the Lord would have given you what I have." So we have a schism in the Body of Christ.

We need to learn there are diversities of gifts, and we are not to judge one another. Paul says in verse 5, "And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord." This word administration means "ministries." The Holy Spirit gives different ministries. This is also another truth we need to learn, beloved. Just because another does not have the same ministry you have, does not mean that his ministry is not from the Holy Spirit.

Rev. Billy Graham is a great evangelist. He is called to the ministry of evangelism, preaching the salvation truth and winning people to Christ, bringing them into the kingdom of God. Just because he does not teach people to receive the Baptism of the Spirit, just because it is not his ministry to lead them into the gifts of the Spirit (tongues, prophecy, healing, faith, discerning of spirits, etc.) does not mean that the godly pastor who is called to lead people into the deeper things of God is not called to that ministry. It does not mean that his ministry is not from God just as much as Billy Graham's is. There are many ministries that are distributed by God to His servants, and this truth we must also learn.

Verse 6, "And there are diversities of operation, but it is the same God which worketh all in all." Here we are told that there are many different operations of the Spirit. The Spirit of God does not operate in everyone the same way.

I have seen one person when they are baptized in the Spirit become so filled with joy that they just laughed in the Spirit for 30 minutes. Then I have seen another person come completely under the power of the Spirit, be baptized in the Spirit, and just cry with joy as they spoke in tongues. Then I have seen another do neither of these but simply lift their hands to God and in a simple faith yield themselves to the Spirit of God. They began to speak forth in other tongues adoring God without any emotional manifestation.

The Spirit of God operates in one person one way and another person another way. You see, the Spirit knows just what He needs to bring forth from within us to give us our experience with God.

According to each individual personality, He will bring forth from within that person that which needs to come forth in order to give them great release with God and great blessings and a great personal experience in the Spirit. So if he draws forth keeping from one, wonderful. If He draws forth great holy laughter from another, wonderful. If he draws forth simple heart adoration with no emotional manifestation whatsoever, fine. We must let the Holy Spirit operate in His way. We must yield to His operation within us. He alone knows what will bring our release.

I once knew a wise pastor's wife who knew this great truth. I walked into an early Sunday evening young people's service which she was conducting with 30 young people. They were seeking to worship God, when suddenly the Spirit swept over them as they were singing choruses praising God. The song

leader said, "Let's sing another chorus." They stopped weeping and began to sing. The wise pastor's wife who had been playing the piano rose up and said, "No, the Spirit of God is bringing something forth from within us. Let's not sing it away." They just remained quiet and again the Spirit swept across the whole group. They began to weep and continued for 40 minutes. It was time for the service to begin. The adults began coming into the sanctuary. When they did, the Spirit swept to the adults. Many of them began to weep intercessory prayers. The Spirit laid burdens upon their hearts. Soon the Spirit swept through the whole congregation. Many began to move forward to the altar falling on their faces weeping in deep intercession to God for the needs of God's Body and His kingdom. The Pastor came in and saw the Spirit of God moving. They had no service that night. For 2 hours the whole congregation stayed on their knees before God in prayer. They were letting the Spirit bring forth from within them that which was necessary. We need only to let the Holy Spirit operate in His own way.

Verse 7, "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." These gifts are given for a very definite purpose, to profit all of the Body of Christ, all of God's people. When we yield to them and when we allow them to operate in God's divine order, each one is fulfilling its purpose by bringing great profit and great blessing to the Body of Christ.

Another thing I would like to bring to your attention. In verse 7, Paul does not refer to these as gifts but manifestations of the Spirit. He says the "manifestations of the Spirit" are given to profit withal. This also contains a great truth which we will come back to in a moment. Paul goes on to list the 9 manifestations of the Spirit. We are going to read them one by one. Then we will go back over and explain the purpose of each in the Body of Christ.

Verse 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the Same Spirit. 9. To another by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit. 10. To Another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.

Now let us go back and explain each one of these manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

WORD OF WISDOM - Now usually when we read this we immediately think it speaks of the general wisdom that is given from God. But it does not say wisdom, it says a word of wisdom. This is when the Holy Spirit gives us a particular word of wisdom to meet the need in a particular situation. Suppose we are dealing with someone and trying to bring them to Christ. They seem to have a mental block hindering them from seeing the light, seeing Jesus as their Saviour. Suddenly the Spirit gives us a particular word of wisdom that we can share with that person enabling them to get by this mental block to lead them to Christ. This is the word of wisdom in operation, a specific word of wisdom to meet the need in a specific situation.

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE - Again we are prone to think this speaks of the general knowledge we acquire in the study of the scripture, etc. It does not. This is the gift whereby the Spirit gives to one a specific word of knowledge, supernaturally to meet a given need or situation. For the best illustration of the word of knowledge, turn to John 4:6. We read where Jesus met the woman at the well, and he sought quickly to get her mind on spiritual things so He might lead her to salvation. He said, "Give me to drink." She being a Samaritan and knowing that the Jews hated the Samaritans was surprised that Jesus spoke to her. She said, "How is it that thou, being a Jew askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria?" Jesus answered her and said, "If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked him, and he would have given thee living water."

Jesus was seeking to get her mind on spiritual things, she being carnal was thinking carnal things and had her mind on carnal water, so she answered, "Sir thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep : from whence then hast thou that living water?" Suddenly Jesus said to her, "Go call thy husband, and come hither." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said unto her, "Thou hast well said, I have no husband: for thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly." When this happened, the woman got her mind on spiritual things immediately. She said, "Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet," because she knew that Jesus could not possibly have this knowledge about her except God had given it to him supernaturally. It was exactly what had happened.

The Holy Spirit had given Jesus a word of knowledge concerning this woman so that she would have confidence in Him and His ministry to her. This is the operation of the word of knowledge.

Often when a minister stands on the platform, points his finger at the congregation and says, "That person has cancer. If you will come and let us pray for you, God will heal you." The person in the congregation knows the healing minister never knew them or had heard of them before or could know these facts about them except the Spirit of God had supernaturally given them a word of knowledge concerning them. It does not only work in divine healing, it works in many other areas

May I give you a 20th century illustration of the gift of the word of knowledge and the word of wisdom in operation? Some years ago in New Orleans as we pastored there, we were led to a young woman who was just on the verge of demon possession. She told us her story.

She continually felt evil and dirty all the time. She could never have company over because when she would sit in company, she would suddenly feel a tremendous urge to burst forth speaking all sorts of filthy language. She had to run to keep herself from doing it. When she went to a department store, her first urge was to smash all the glassware. She would have to run from the department store. It made her life miserable, and she was on the verge of committing suicide. When we heard her story, we knew immediately that it was demon work. We invited her to a prayer meeting at our home two days later at 8 o'clock in the morning. When we arrived, we had about 20 of our people there. We informed her that we had brought her there to cast the demons out of her. For 4 hours we commanded the demon spirits to come out of her in Jesus' name. And she was right about the filthy language. In those 4 hours those spirits spoke some of the most horrible language that I have ever heard. But after 4 hours, the last demon came out bowing down before the name of Jesus setting her free.

Then I sat down and sought to lead her to Christ. To my amazement I could not do so. I presented Christ to her every way that I knew how, and I know many, but she would say to me, "Bro. Fife, I want to believe, but I just can't." I did not understand why.

Finally I had to give up and send her home. I prayed much that night and at 5 o'clock the next morning, the Spirit gave me a word of knowledge why this young woman could not see Christ as her Saviour. He told me the demons had convinced, had planted in her mind that she had to believe with perfect faith that Jesus was her Saviour and all her sins were washed away in Him. She felt that not being able to believe with perfect faith, she could not believe at all.

The next day, I went to her home and said to her, "Lorraine, God told me why you cannot believe. The demon spirits have given you the idea that you have to believe with perfect faith. I know many Christians who believe according to their ability. They put their trust in Jesus, but I know few who believe with perfect faith."

Then God gave me a word of wisdom to break this block, how to use the word of knowledge He had given me. I said, "You can believe to the best of your ability that Jesus is your Saviour, can't you?" She said, "Oh yes! I can do that." I said, "That is all that is necessary. God never requires us to do more than we are able to do." When I said that, she fell to her knees in tears, and she gave her heart to Jesus.

The next day I went by her home. She said, "Bro. Fife, I have been going around the neighborhood visiting all my neighbors. I don't feel those horrible urges any more. I feel just as clean as anybody in the world." The last I saw of her she was going on with Jesus. This is the word of knowledge and the word of wisdom.

FAITH - There needs to be a lot of teaching on this because it is true that faith is the gift of God. There the Bible is not talking about the passive faith by which we believe that Jesus is our Saviour and that it will take us to Heaven some day. It is talking here about that mighty faith which says, "in the name of Jesus" let it be done, and it is done. This faith is a gift of God. It is not given to us the way most people think. Many think you simply need to pray and pray and pray, "Oh God! Give me the gift of faith." Then suddenly it is handed to them on a silver platter so to speak, and then they can go out and start doing mighty things. No, the Spirit does not give it to us this way. As we pray to God to give us faith, He brings us to the scripture where He feeds us on God's Word. Through communion with Jesus, through revelation and through feeding on God's Word He enables us to grow stronger day by day, week by week,

month by month until we come to that mighty faith that enables us to do mighty things in the name of Jesus.

GIFTS OF HEALING - Notice it does not say the gift of healing but gifts (plural) of healing. No man has any blanket gift of healing whereby he can go about healing someone anytime he wants. Jesus did not have any such gift. It is recorded in Matthew 13:53-58 that He could not do mighty miracles in His home of Nazareth because of unbelief. Jesus could only heal where He found faith or where He could build faith in the people. He could not do mighty miracles in Nazareth simply because the people did not believe in Him. He healed only where He found faith or could build faith. It is simply where ever we can find a believer who will believe God with us. As Jesus said, "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 18:19) Where ever I can find believers that will believe God with me, God will give me a gift of healing for that person. If a person comes in the prayer line, if he has faith, and I have faith, then we agree together. Therefore, God gives us the gift of healing for that person.

Another person might slip forward who has no faith in Jesus and does not walk with God. He just happened to hear people get healed in our church. As he is sick, he figures he will give it a try. He will try anything once. When he comes before me, I pray with the same faith I did with the believer. But, this person does not believe God with me., and God will not give the gift of healing for that person.

This is not limited to a gift any one man has. The smallest believer in Christ, be it man or woman, when there is a need, they can get someone to agree with them. God will give them a gift of healing..

MIRACLES - The working of miracles works on the same order as the gifts of healing. The only difference between the gifts of healing and working of miracles is: A person comes in the prayer line having tuberculosis, I lay hands on them. We believe God that the work is done and receive it by faith. The person goes away without the manifestation of the healing whatsoever. Two weeks later the symptoms pass away, the person is healed. This is the gift of healing in operation. The gift of miracles is different.

If a person comes with one leg four inches shorter than the other, God has to create a new bone, new flesh and new everything to help that person. It will take a miracle, a working of miracles. If a person comes in the prayer line deaf, we pray the prayer of faith then God instantly opens their deaf ears, then this is the working of miracles. God has instantly opened their ears and they hear.

PROPHECY - There is much teaching that needs to be done on this manifestation of the Spirit. The gift of prophecy is the divinely inspired utterance spoken by the believer in church under the direct anointing of the Spirit of God. I Corinthians 14:3 says, "But He that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort." This is the purpose of prophecy, to edify or build up. In the original Greek "edify" means to "build up." This is to comfort and exhort the church, to build the believers in faith.

There is a distinct difference between the gift of prophecy as in I Cor. 12 and 14, and the ministry of prophet as in Eph. 4:1-11. The gift of prophecy in I Cor. 12 and 14 has a three-fold purpose, edification, exhortation, and comfort. It is never to be used for personal guidance or to predict the future.

The ministry God uses in His divine order for personal guidance and prediction of the future is the office or ministry of prophet as in Ephesians 4:1-11. God anoints certain believers to receive words from Heaven in dreams and visions. These visions and dreams counsel God's people giving personal guidance and confirmation to their leadings. These visions and dreams are also revelation of the future.

Often Christians have stumbled, been hurt and confused as they move into the manifestations of the Spirit by having someone prophesy over them that they should go to a certain place and do thus and thus. If someone ever prophesies over you that you should go to a certain place and do a certain thing, turn around and run from that person as fast as you can. It is not the Spirit of God that is speaking through them but a demon spirit. The Spirit of God is not going to get out of God's divine order for prophecy in I Cor. 12 and 14. God's divine order for prophecy is not to predict the future or give personal guidance to individuals or to the church. God's divine order is to comfort, edify, or exhort the saints by prophecy.

On the other hand, if a prophet, anointed to receive visions and dreams from God comes to you revealing a vision concerning that which God has given them of a personal guidance or revelation of the future, then you must weigh it considering that it might possibly be from God. However, you still must check this also and be sure it is confirmed to keep the enemy from tricking you.

So we see that the gift of prophecy as listed in I Corinthians 12 is a divinely inspired utterance spoken under the direct anointing of the Spirit of God for the purpose of building up, comforting, and exhorting God's people in the church.

My soul is much comforted as I am in church service and I hear the Spirit come upon one of God's saints, and they begin to roll forth the divinely inspired utterance in the poetic form only the Spirit of God can bring forth. It exhorts me to go further with my Lord, comforting me, assuring me of His presence, building me up in faith. My soul is much more blest as I hear this than when I hear someone begin to speak forth predictions of the future.

In our services, our teenagers who are walking in the Spirit begin to speak forth, sometimes halting, stumbling words of exhortation, "Thus saith the Lord, My people, I am with thee. Have not I said unto thee that I will not leave thee nor forsake thee for I am with thee always." Just because it is sometimes halting, we do not deny that it's the Spirit Of God working prophecy in this young person.

We know that this young person is being taught to prophesy as they yield themselves to the Spirit.

Few people know the gift of prophecy can be learned. Paul said in I Cor. 14:31, "For ye may all prophecy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted." "All may learn what? That all may learn to prophecy. Prophecy is to be learned, and the Holy Spirit is the teacher. It is to be learned little by little.

As the Spirit teaches these young people to yield to the Spirit of God, He begins to place in their minds words of exhortation which comfort and build up. They speak them forth at first halting and stumbling, but then as they grow more and more, the day comes when the Spirit of the Lord comes upon them. They begin to roll forth great profound messages of prophecy from God which are so poetic and so glorious in their exhortation and comfort, it sets the whole assembly on fire.

So do you know what God has done? He has taken a young person who in the natural you could never drag behind a pulpit to speak to a whole congregation. But, with the supernatural gift of prophecy, God has led them and enabled them to grow into it teaching them day by day. God has taken that young person and made a powerful minister of Jesus Christ.

DISCERNING OF SPIRITS - What a great need there is in the church today for this gift of the Spirit. This is the supernatural ability given by the Holy Spirit to be able to discern when a person is vexed, depressed, oppressed, possessed or indwelt with demon spirits. We need to be able to discern when it is a demon spirit speaking through a person and when it's God's Spirit.

This divine ability is given by the Holy Spirit, but not the way so many people think. It is not given to us by just coming to God, praying, fasting, etc. then finally feeling we have it so we can go out discerning who has demon spirits and who has not. Too many people have been hurt this way

The Spirit of God brings us first to His word. In the study of the Word He teaches about the nature and the character of demons and their symptoms, then how to recognize them. When the Holy Spirit, through His Word has trained us and taught us all these things, we are then prepared to go forth under His divine anointing. He Will supernaturally enable us to discern the work of demon spirits in the lives of others and ourselves. God always works through His word.

To receive these gifts, we simply must yield ourselves to the Spirit of God and let Him bring them forth in us day after day, week after week, month after month as we study the Word of God.

Some years ago after pouring out His Spirit upon our Southern Baptist church, the Holy Spirit established us in the healing ministry. Then God spoke to me by dream and told me He was going to lead us in a search for knowledge concerning the demoniac kingdom that we may be able to overcome Satan.

In a dream, I saw the people of our church and myself walking through fields and woods. We were all children seeming to be about 9 years old. We came to an open space and there lying stretched out in that open space was a giant serpent about 20 feet long and very large. He looked like he was dead. At first all the children, "Oh, he is, dead." Then one of the men picked him up. When he did, the serpent came to life.

The man dropped him and the serpent slithered off. All the children and I sat down on the ground and made a covenant together to search and seek out this serpent until we found and destroyed him.

God was speaking to us that He was leading us in the search for knowledge of the Satanic kingdom. For the next 3 years, the Lord dealt with us more on this subject from the scriptures than any. After 3 years of preparation, He began to send us many people who were demon possessed, oppressed, and needed deliverance. God had prepared and trained us. Then the manifestation of discerning spirits began to operate in us.

DIVERS KIND OF TONGUES - You will notice that the scripture says "divers kinds of tongues." We learned before that "divers" means different kinds. There are different kinds of supernatural tongues that the Holy Spirit gives.

Many have sought to deny the unknown tongue that is spoken by many who have been filled with the Spirit and given the gift of tongues in the world today is of God simply because it is not a known language. They quote the fact that the disciples on the day of Pentecost spoke in a language that was heard by those who understood the language in which they spoke. The Bible teaches that the Spirit often would supernaturally enable one to speak in a language that is known and could be understood by one who knows the language. The Bible also teaches that there is an "unknown" tongue which when one is speaking it no man understands him except God. "For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the Spirit he speaketh mysteries." (I Cor. 14:2) He is not speaking to men, he is speaking to God. Man is not supposed to understand him. God understands him. This is the unknown tongue. The Bible leaves room for different kinds of tongues.

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES - This is the supernatural gift of interpretation whereby God enables one to interpret that which is spoken supernaturally in the unknown tongue to those who are in the congregation. Either the speaker or someone in the congregation can receive the interpretation. There are two things that need to be said about this manifestation. First, notice that it is an interpretation of tongues not a translation. So many have sought to criticize the gift because those who interpret do not use the same amount of words that those who have spoken in the unknown tongue have used. If I am going to translate when you speak in Greek, then I need an English word for every Greek word you have spoken. But, if I am simply going to interpret what you speak in Greek, you can speak a hundred words, and I can give the message to the people I am interpreting to fifty words if I desire as long as I get the message over to them. I have then interpreted for you.

You have heard the stories about those who went to meetings where someone was speaking in tongues. They counted the words in tongues and the words of the interpretation, then said it wasn't of God because they both did not have the same amount of words. I read in my Bible that Daniel interpreted a message that was written in an unknown tongue on a wall. The message written was about 4 words, "mene, mene, tekel, upharsin." Daniel interpreted it with many words. The message said, "God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians." (Daniel 5:26-28)

We can share with you the way the interpretation comes forth. Either during the time I am speaking in tongues, or shortly after, the Spirit will place in my mind the message that I have spoken. I might receive the whole interpretation while I am speaking in tongues.

Sometimes as I yield to the Spirit and begin to speak in just the few words of interpretation, the rest of the message interpretation is born by the Spirit as I speak. So this means that interpretation and prophecy is given by the Holy Spirit.

I may speak a message in tongues and either during the time I'm speaking or shortly afterward, the Spirit will pour in the mind of another member of the Body the message I have spoken. It isn't that they understand what I'm speaking, the Spirit gives them the interpretation by planting it in their minds.

These are the 9 manifestations of the Spirit. This takes us back to verse 7 where we pointed out that Paul called these not gifts but manifestations. This is a much better term for it gives a fuller understanding. You see, the term gift denotes to you something that God has for you way up in the sky. But a manifestation is an evidence of something already in you. This is the true picture. They are

manifestations or evidences coming out of us by the Holy Spirit who is already in us. He wants to manifest Himself out of us in one or all of these 9 different ways according to our degree of yielding to Him. All we must do is yield to the Spirit within us.

We do not need to plead, pray, or beg God to give us these gifts. We need only to yield to the Holy Spirit day by day, then He will manifest Himself out of us in all His glory.

When I received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit., I received all the gifts of the Spirit for they are in Him and He is in me I did not need to beg or ask but only to yield myself more to Him that He might. manifest Himself out of me.

The word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, gifts of healing faith, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues and interpretation are manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Beloved they are more than that. They are Christ ministering to His Body through His Body. When Jesus of Nazareth walked this earth over 1900 years ago, Christ dwelt in the body of Jesus of Nazareth. When His followers needed something, they came to Christ in the body of Jesus of Nazareth and received it. When they needed healing, they came to Jesus of Nazareth and received, it. When they needed comforting, they came to Christ in Jesus of Nazareth and receive it. But after Calvary, that body of Jesus of Nazareth disappeared from the earth.

God put a new body for Christ to dwell in. You are it, and I'm it. All born again believers are a member of it. I Cor. 12:27 says, "Now ye are the Body of Christ and members in particular." Today when

His children need something, they can come to Christ in the Body in which He dwells and receive it. If they need healing, they can come to Christ in the member in which He is healing and receive it, etc. This is Christ ministering to His Body through His Body.

If you took the human body and chopped off one ear and pulled off one leg, cut off one arm, poked out one eye, knocked out half the teeth, you will have a sick mutilated body. This is what Satan has done to the Body of Christ. By tricking the Church, he has chopped off the member that prophesied and said it no longer exists. He chopped off the member that had divers tongues and interpretation and said they no longer exist. Many interpreted prophecy as preaching and did away with the person who had the gift of prophecy.

This is why today we see a sick, suffering, mutilated Body of Christ. But God is restoring all the members to the Body of Christ.

God is restoring the manifestations of the Spirit. Several years ago God spoke to me in an audible voice saying, "The ministry of Christ to His Body through His Body must be brought to perfection." Much we have seen today is false manifestations, over-zealous Christians with false fire and fanaticism.

Step by step God is going to educate His people in the true manifestations of the Spirit and purge out all the falsehood. God is going to bring the 9 manifestations of the Spirit into perfection in the Body of Christ with each fulfilling His purpose. When He does, we are going to see the glorified Body of Christ in the world. May God hasten that day. In Jesus' name. Amen.