

The Outer Anointing of the Holy Spirit

Memorize Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

1. We have previously studied the **inner anointing** of the Holy Spirit under the title **The Spirit-Filled Life**. We refer to this filling as an inner anointing because it is the process of the transformation of the believer's character into the character of Christ. As a result the believer will demonstrate the **fruit** of the Spirit as listed in Galatians 5:22-23.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

2. We must not confuse the gifts of the Spirit as outlined in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4 with the fruit of the Spirit.

List the gifts from each set of verses:

Romans 12:1-8

1 Corinthians 12:28

Ephesians 4:7-13

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- According to Romans 12:6, do we all have the same gifts? _____
- According to 1 Corinthians 12:4, 11
Who determines what gifts we have? _____
Does everyone have the same gifts? _____
- According to 1 Corinthians 12:7 and Romans 12:4
What is the purpose of the gifts? _____

- According to Ephesians 4:12
What is the purpose of the gifts given to the Church?

Since the Holy Spirit determines what gifts each of us will receive, it would be a mistake to pursue any specific gift as better than the others. However, Paul does say that if you must desire one gift what gift should that be?

1 Corinthians 14:1 _____

Many today pursue tongues as **the** gift to have. There is no biblical support for this being the primary gift. Read 1 Corinthians 12:29-31. Paul asks if all have the following gifts: apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, healing, tongues, and interpretation. The obvious answer is “No!” because the Body needs diversity to function properly. While every gift is necessary for the proper performance of the Body, some are more visible than others. Not everyone can be the pastor. Not everyone can be a leader. Not everyone can minister mercy. We are all essential to the well-being of the Body, but not all the same.

3. The Lust of the Spirit. There is in the Body today a *lust of the Spirit* that focuses its attention on specific gifts and experiences that give the believer “*spiritual status*” in the Church. This desire to be recognized has at its core the very opposite of God’s purpose for the Spirit in us. It is always God’s purpose to bring glory to Himself. *A spiritual gift is a supernatural empowering of the Spirit that focuses on God and ministers to the needs of others.* The believer is merely a vessel for the Holy Spirit to minister to others. The vessel has no glory of its own and should never attempt to be recognized. We, as believers, are never the focus, just the tool.

In Acts 8:14-24 we find the story of the first man with a lust of the Spirit. What was wrong with his request (v. 20)?

The gifts are always given so that God may work for the enlargement and development of the Body of Christ. Read Ephesians 4:13 (NIV).

- What three things should be the result of these gifts?

_____ in the faith

_____ of the Son of God

become _____, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

The lust of the Spirit has brought arrogance, self-righteousness, and division to the Body of Christ—the very opposite of God’s intent. On one side of the issue, those with certain gifts have condemned those without them as being “back-slidden and carnal”. Those without certain gifts have assigned those with as “demon-controlled”. The rhetoric is sinful from both camps. Is there no grace in the Body of Christ?

Read Ephesians 4:1-8. What should we make every effort to keep? _____

From Ephesians 4:4-5, Paul says that there is **one**:

Unity is only possible when each believer walks in the Spirit and love permeates the relationship. 1 Corinthians 13 is a comprehensive explanation of godly love. *Love is patient, kind, not envious, not boastful, not proud, not rude, not self-seeking, not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs, does not delight in evil, rejoices in truth, always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres, and never fails.*

Paul places his statement about love ***right in the middle of his discussion of spiritual gifts*** because love is the controlling motive. Without love we are nothing! (see 1 Corinthians 13:2). Like physical lust that distorts true love because of its focus on self-gratification, the lust of the Spirit distorts the motive of love in which we serve the Lord. If your pursuit of God is for self-gratification you have a lust of the Spirit that will go anywhere and pay any price to be satisfied, but without satisfaction. Lust is never satisfied because it is not from God. True satisfaction is found in obedience to Christ in a life of self-giving that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and has as its goal the glory of God, exemplified in a character that is Christ-like, and an anointing that brings people face to face with God.

Many who attempt to get the power of the Spirit with the wrong motives receive something, but not from the Lord. The enemy is a master at forgery and many have “false anointings”. These false anointings bring a hunger for more anointing rather than a life of Spirit power in the service of Christ to others.

Read Acts 1:8.

What will they receive when the Holy Spirit comes upon them? _____

What will happen next? _____

The evidence of the anointing of the Holy Spirit in a believer is power to serve!

Those that say they have this anointing without power to serve have a false anointing. They are lusting after the Spirit for their own edification and blessing. Jesus did not instruct the disciples to wait to feel good—He told them to wait for power so they could serve in His power not their own!

It is God's desire for you to walk in the Spirit so that your character may be transformed into His character, and that you serve Him in the power of the Spirit so that He may be glorified in and through you.

- 4. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit.** There is within the Church today a battle raging over the issue of the Holy Spirit. ***Evangelicals*** believe that there is one baptism for every believer—when the believer is baptized into Christ at conversion. This is done by the Holy Spirit and is never repeated. Water baptism is an outward sign of this event. They do not believe that there is a “second work of grace” whereby the believer is baptized again, this time ***in*** the Holy Spirit rather than ***by*** Him. On the other hand ***Pentecostals*** and ***Neo-Pentecostals*** (Charismatics) believe the Bible teaches that there is definitely a “second work of grace” when the believer receives the anointing of the Holy Spirit which they call the *Baptism of the Holy Spirit*. Before this second blessing the believer is saved (*though some believe that without this anointing one is not a believer*) but lacks any supernatural power for living and serving. The believer is carnal not spiritual and in need of being Spirit-filled. The Pentecostals equate filling and baptism and see no separation in Scripture, but focus on the power received in the baptism of

the Spirit and spiritual gifts. The Evangelicals see a separation of filling and baptism but have no adequate understanding of Spirit-power in the believer and focus their attention on the fruit of the Spirit.

While many use the events in Acts to support their beliefs, Paul only discusses the baptism of the Holy Spirit in one place, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13. The difficulty with the use of Acts as normative for us today is that everything was for the first time in Acts. Since the Holy Spirit had never come before, one would expect that His coming would be unique and eventful. And so it was. In Acts 2 we have an exciting account that has never been duplicated—not even in Acts! One Pentecostal pastor told me they had Acts two every Sunday. I was amazed, until I found out he had no sound of a rushing wind, no tongues of fire, no people hearing their own foreign language spoken, and no significant numbers being saved! It turned out all that was happening was the speaking in ecstatic utterances. That is not Acts 2!!

From *1 Corinthians 12:12-13 (NIV)*

How many believers were *baptized by* one Spirit? _____

How many believers were *given the one spirit to drink*? _____

If you are a believer you have been baptized into Christ by the Holy Spirit and you have been given the Holy Spirit to indwell and empower you.

5. The place of faith. When you were saved you placed your faith in the finished work of Christ and received the fulness of Christ. Read Colossians 2:6-10.

How did you receive Christ? _____

How are you to walk? (verse 6) _____

How much of Him did you receive? (verse 10) _____

Everything in the Christian life is by faith. We are saved by faith, walk by faith, and will be glorified by faith. God has chosen to use faith as the catalyst for His moving in our lives and in the world. But what is faith and what does it have to do with anointing? Good question!

Define faith as described in Hebrews 11:1 (use KJV!!)

Faith is the _____

And the _____

Faith is substance (*having*) and evidence (*the certainty of having*). When we ask believing we already have that which we ask for. See 1 John 5:14-15. *Faith then is the certainty of having what we ask for because God has said we already have it. Faith is the appropriating of what God has already done in us so that it becomes our experience in this life.*

6. By “outer anointing” we mean the special empowering that God gives to accomplish His will through us. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 we see that every believer has been baptized into Christ and has been given the indwelling Spirit to drink. The believer must then appropriate the Spirit’s power or anointing by faith. For most this is a very deep emotional and spiritual experience and there is good reason. Many have come into the Body of Christ without a proper understanding of what has been accomplished *for* them and *in* them through the work of the Holy Spirit. Our evangelism and poor theology has created believers who have never had a “travailing of the soul” whereby they died to their old self and surrendered to the will of God. R. A. Torrey in his book *“The Baptism with the Holy Spirit”* gives several steps to receiving this baptism. One step is *“the total surrender of the will to the will of God”* and another, *“the asking that springs from a real and intense desire for His empowering.”* It is precisely these two steps that are missing in most Christians. There is little dying to self and hunger for powerful service in most Christians today. God must bring about a dying to self that is very traumatic, without which many have received a **deficient second blessing** that makes them feel good, but does not result in **power to serve!** Have you ever wondered why so many speak in tongues after their experience, but few are called to evangelism or suffering like Paul. There is no need for a dying to self when we speak in tongues, especially in a place where it is **the** mark of the anointing. The disciples gave up everything for Christ—our churches are full of self-called *“spirit-filled”* believers who give up nothing and demand everything.

On the other hand, others see no need for anointing, the flesh can do just fine by itself! Many a church has been built on sheer talent and manipulation. The tragedy is that many sheep can’t tell! They just follow the successful—not ever knowing that the Spirit isn’t even there. This group has knowledge without spiritual power, a religion Paul describes in 2 Timothy 3:5 *“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”*

Let’s summarize where we are:

- The fruit of the Spirit is the result of an inner anointing of the Spirit and is the character of Christ in us.
- The gifts of the Spirit are supernatural workings of the Spirit through the Christian to others for the purpose of building up the Body of Christ.
- The Holy Spirit baptizes the believer into Christ at salvation.
- The Holy Spirit enters the believer at salvation.
- Many believers experience a *“second work of grace”* that is a very deep spiritual and emotional experience and their lives are marked by spiritual power.

If you are not experiencing a supernatural empowering of the Spirit where His gifts are operating in a power beyond your own, you are living beneath your calling and God wants you to rise up now!

7. Steps to Appropriating the Outer Anointing

1. **Believe what God has said and promised.** He has promised the Holy Spirit's empowering for every believer, including you. It is His desire to anoint you with the Holy Spirit so that you can be a useful servant.
2. **Repent of any known sin.** Ask the Lord to show you any sin hindering His working you and claim 1 John 1:9.
3. **Surrender your will to His.** God will not empower our old self. It must be considered crucified with Christ with all of its desires. There must be a surrender of the will to the will of God. If He determines to give you a small place of service you must be willing to obey. If He desires a great place of service, you must be willing to serve there as well. Some would rather be in a small place! But it is God who determines our calling and gifts.
4. **Ask God to give you His anointing for service.** There must come a time of surrender and asking. The Bible says, "*Ye have not, because ye ask not*".
5. **Claim by faith that He has given you His empowering.** Faith is the key. Rest on His promises, not your feelings. Claim your anointing and begin walking in it.
6. **Look for a place to serve.** Remember outer anointing is for service.
7. **If you need help** just ask your leader or the Pastor to minister to you. Sometimes believers need spiritual insights from others. Don't be afraid to ask.
8. **This anointing is not a one-time event.** Many Christians are in need of *fresh anointings*. For some it is because of sin in their lives; others have a new calling and need a new work of empowering for service. There are even times when you need extra power for a situation—ask God for more anointing.

God bless you as you walk in the empowering of the Spirit.