

Spiritual Gifts, November 1914

See the twelfth chapter of First Corinthians. "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant" (v. 1). Now when the Holy Ghost says that, He expects us to understand what the gifts are, and He wants us to understand that the church may be able to profit thereby.

"...no man can say Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost" (1 Corinthians 12:3). Whenever I have come in touch with people who have acknowledged the Lord Jesus, I have known whether they knew anything about the Spirit of God, for every spirit which is of God testifies of Jesus, and you will always be able to tell by that their spiritual condition. If they do not confess that Jesus was manifested in the flesh, you may know that they have not the Spirit of God. Beloved, on the contrary, we find out that every spirit that confesses that Jesus is the Lord, is by the Holy Ghost.

...there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 1 Corinthians 12:6,7

Everyone who has received the Holy Ghost has within him great possibilities and unlimited power; also great possessions, not only of things which are present, but also of things which are to come. The Holy Ghost has power to equip you for every emergency. The reason people are not thus equipped is that they do not receive Him and do not yield to Him; they are timid and doubt, and in the measure that they doubt, they go down. But if you yield to His leadings and do not doubt, it will lead you to success and victory; you will grow in grace and will have not only a controlling power, but you will have a revealing power of the mind and purposes which God has for you. I see where all things are in the power of the Holy Ghost, and I must not fail to give you the same truth.

We must remember that we have entered into the manifestation of the glory of God, and in that is great power and strength. Many might be far ahead of where they are this morning but they have doubted. If by any means the enemy can come in and make you believe a lie, he will do so. We have had to struggle to maintain our standing in our salvation, for the enemy would beat us out of that if possible. It is in the closeness of the association and oneness with Christ where there is no fear, but perfect confidence all the time. The child of God need not go back a day for his experience, for the presence of the Lord is with him and the Holy Ghost is in him and in mighty power, if he will believe;

and I see that we should stir one another up and provoke one another to good works.

The Pentecostal people have a “know” in their experience. We know that we have the Spirit abiding within and if we are not moved upon by the Spirit, we move the Spirit; that is what we mean by stirring up the Spirit. And yet it is not we, but the living faith within us, it is the Spirit who stirs Himself up. Where are we living? I do not mean in the natural order. We are a spiritual people, a royal priesthood, a holy people.

If we find that there is unbelief in us we must search our hearts to see why it is there. Where there is a living faith, there is no unbelief, and we go on from faith to faith until it becomes as natural to live there as can be. But if you try to live faith before you are just, you will fail, for “the just shall live by faith,” (Romans 1:17) and when you are just, it is a natural consequence for you to live by faith. It is easy; it is joyful; it is more than that, it is our life, and spiritual inheritance.

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:8

If the Spirit can stir you up this morning, you will come short in no gift. God wants you to see that we need not come behind in any gift, and wants to bring us to a place where we will be on fire because of what He has called us to. We ought always to move the tent every night; we cannot stay in one place; the land is before us; there are wonderful possessions. He says, “They are yours; go in and claim them.”

Paul prayed that we might be “able to comprehend with all saints,” (Ephesians 3:18) and I see that place where Paul was in the Holy Ghost and I believe that God is calling us today to comprehend as much as Paul comprehended. It is in the perfect will of God that we should possess the needed gifts, but there must be unity between God and you. When the gifts are in evidence, the whole church is built up, Christ being the head. Jesus said, “I come to do Thy will, O my God!” and as we surrender in that way God will be delighted to hand to us the gift which is necessary. The more we realize that God has furnished us with a gift, the more completely we will be united with Jesus, so that people will be conscious of Him rather than of His gift.

Oh, beloved, if it is not all of the Holy Ghost and if we are not so lost and controlled in the ministry of the gift, that it is only to be Jesus, it will all be a failure and come to naught. There was none so self-conscious as they who said, “In Thy name we have cast out devils.” They were so

controlled by the natural and the thought that they had done it all, that God was not in it. But when He comes forth and does it, it is all right.

There is a place in the Holy Ghost where we will not allow unbelief to affect us, for God has all power in heaven and earth. And now that I am in the secret knowledge of this power I stand in a place where my faith is not to be limited, because I have the knowledge that He is in me and I in Him. Some of you come from your homes with broken hearts, you have a longing for something to strengthen you in conditions which exist there, and a power to make these conditions different. You say you are unequally yoked together. You have a mighty power that is greater than all natural power. You can take victory over your homes, and your husbands, and children and you must do it in the Lord's way. Suppose you do see many things that ought to be different; if it is your cross you must take it and win the victory for God; it can be done, for greater is He that is in you than all the power of hell. I reckon that any man filled with the Holy Ghost is equal to a legion of devils any day.

A man in Glasgow got up and said, "I have power to cast out devils." A man full of devils got up and came to him, and this man did everything he could, but could not cast out the devils. Do you want to cast out devils? You be sure it is the Holy Ghost that does it. You know that spirit of divination followed Paul three days. The Holy Ghost has His dwelling place within me and is stirring up my heart and life to adore Jesus. Other things must be left behind; I must adore Him.

God says, "Every one that asketh receiveth." What do you ask for? What is the motive? In the fourth chapter of James we read that they asked amiss, that they might consume it on their own lusts. There is a need for the gifts, and God will reveal to you what you ought to have, and you ought never to be satisfied until you receive it. It is important that we know we can do nothing of ourselves; but we may know that we are clothed with the power of God so we are not in the natural man in a sense, but as we go forth in this power things will take place as they took place in the days of the disciples. When I received the new birth at eight years of age it was so precious and lovely; I have never lost the knowledge of my acceptance with God since that time. Brothers and sisters, there was a work that God wrought in me when I tarried for the baptism, which has been wonderful. I was in a strange position; I had testified to having received the baptism of the Holy Spirit for sixteen years and had the anointing of the Spirit; I could not speak without it. My wife would come to me and say, "They are waiting for you to come out and speak to the people." I would say, "I cannot and will not come

without the anointing of the Spirit." I can see now I was calling the anointing the baptism; but when the Holy Spirit came into my body until I could not give satisfaction to the glory that was in me, God took this tongue, and I spoke as the Spirit gave utterance which brought perfect satisfaction to me. When He comes in He abides. I then began to reach out as the Holy Ghost showed me.

In the call of Elisha God saw the young man's willingness to obey. The twelve yoke of oxen, the plough and all soon came to naught and all bridges had to be burned behind him. Brother, the Lord has called you. Are you separated from the old things? You cannot go without. As Elisha went on with Elijah, he heard the wonderful things of his ministry, and he was longing for the time when he would take his master's place. The time was coming. His master said to him, "I am going to Gil gal today, I want you to remain here." "Master," he said, "I must go with you." I find that other people knew something about it for they said to him, "Do you know' the Master is going to be taken away from you today?" He said, "Hold your peace, I know it." Later on the master said, "I want to go on to Bethel; you stay here." But Elisha says, "No, I will not leave thee" (see 2 Kings 2). Something had been revealed to Elisha. Perhaps God is drawing you to do something; you feel it. Then Elijah said, "The Lord hath sent me to Jordan; you stay here." It was the spirit of the old man that was stirring up the young man. If you see zeal in somebody else, get on a stretch for it; it is for you. I am recognizing that God is wanting all the members of His body joined together; and He makes us feel in these days when a person is failing to go on with God, we must have that member.

When they came to the Jordan Elijah switched his mantle over it, and they passed over, and no doubt Elisha said, "I must follow his steps." And when they had gone over, the old man said, "You have done well, you would not stay back; what is the real desire of your heart? I feel I am going to leave you; ask what you like now before I leave you." "Master," he says, "I have seen all that you have done; Master, I want twice as much as you have." I believe it is the fainthearted that do not get much. As they went on up the hill down comes the chariot of fire, nearer and nearer, and when it lights, the old man jumps in, and the young man says, "Father, Father, Father," and down comes the mantle. What have you asked for? Are you satisfied to go on in the old way now when the Holy Spirit has come to give you an unlimited supply of power, and He says, "What will you have?"

We see Peter so filled with the Holy Ghost that his shadow falling on sick people heals them (Acts 5:15). What do you want? He asked and he got it. Elisha comes down and he says, "I don't feel

any different," but he had the knowledge that feelings are not to be counted for anything; some of you people are looking at your feelings all the time. He came to the waters as an ordinary man, then in the knowledge that he possessed the mantle (not in any feelings about it) he said, "Where is the God of Elijah?" and he put his feet down. When you put your feet down and say you are going to have a double portion, you will get it. After he had crossed, there were the young men again (they always come where there is power) and they said, "The spirit of Elijah doth rest upon Elisha."

You are to have the gifts, and claim them, and the Lord will certainly change your life and you will be new men and women. Are you asking for a double portion this morning? I trust that no one shall come behind in any gift. You say, "I have asked; do you think God will be pleased to have me ask again?" Yes, do before Him; ask again, and we may this morning go forth in the Spirit of the mantle, and it shall be no longer I, but the Holy Ghost, and we shall see and know His power because we believe.