

a study of the *Holy Spirit*

Lesson 6: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The miraculous has been witnessed at the beginning of every dispensation in civilization

- **The Patriarchal Age**—the creation's miracles originated everything—human life, vegetable and plant life, and minerals. The first man originated miraculously but afterwards God's Laws dictated that the normal processes of reproduction govern the origin of life. The miraculous was perpetuated by the non-miraculous following God's Laws!
- **The Mosaical Age**—The miracles at Sinai provided the beginning (Exodus 20). Again the miraculous was perpetuated by the non-miraculous following God's Laws (Deuteronomy 27:8; 28:1, 58).
- **The Christian Age**—The miraculous marked the beginning of this era and the beginning of the Church (Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8), but afterwards it would be perpetuated by the non-miraculous.

The "gift" of the Holy Spirit would not be given in the same degree to everyone

- **John 3:34**—The Spirit without measure was given to Christ
- **Acts 10:47; 11:17**—"Like" indicates that some had a gift "unlike" the Apostles
- **Acts 2:4**—Some can be filled while others are not filled

The Bible delineates the "measures" of the Holy Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit without measure (John 3:34; Colossians 1:19; 2:9)
- The Holy Spirit in baptismal measure (Acts 2; 10)
- The Holy Spirit in evidential measure (1 Corinthians 12:1, 4, 31; 14:1; Mark 16:19, 20).
- The Holy Spirit in sanctifying measure (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:2; 4:6; Ephesians 1:13; 2:22)

How is the Holy Spirit dispensed to Christians in the New Testament dispensation?

- *He is "given" to believers*—As a Comforter, Guide, Advocate, and Strengtheners.
- *He has "sent" to the world*—He is now present (Galatians 4:4-6)
- *He has been "put upon" men* (Numbers 11:17, 25)
- *He has been "poured forth"* (Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:32, 33)
- *He has been "supplied" to man* (Galatians 3:5)
- *He has "filled" men* (Exodus 31:1ff; 35:31; Acts 2:4)

The **gifts** of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament can be placed under two categories.

- **EXTRAORDINARY GIFTS** formed the miraculous works of the Holy Spirit.

- The Spirit without measure was given to Jesus (John 3:34).
- The baptismal gift is an “extraordinary” gift of the Spirit (Acts 2; 10).
- The ability to bestow gifts by laying on of hands (Acts 8:5-24).
- The reception of "gifts" by laying on hands (Acts 19:6).
- Nine Spiritual Gifts helped the first Century Church to reach maturity (1 Corinthians 12:8-10).
- *The* **ORDINARY GIFT** was the power of the Holy Spirit is not miraculous. This “ordinary gift” is what remained AFTER the miraculous ceased (Romans 8:9-11).

Understanding the purposes of the gifts allows us to comprehend the reason for the gifts.

- Spread the gospel Word (Luke 21:15; Acts 17:22f)
- Edify the church (Ephesians 4:11-16)
- Confirm the Truth (Hebrews 2:4)
- Record the Truth
- Establish saints (Romans 8:4, 9, 11; Galatians 4:6; 5:16, 25; James 1:4)

The miraculous (extraordinary) gifts have ceased but the ordinary (non-miraculous) gifts continue

- The governing principle of God confirms this Truth.
- The building metaphor of Ephesians 4:11-16 illustrates this Truth.
- The maturity metaphor of 1 Corinthians 13:8-13 teaches this Truth.
- The manner of transmission proves the miraculous has ceased.
- The character of the Bible shows the miraculous gifts are no longer needed.

Why do we not need the miraculous spiritual gifts today?

- Because God has never re-verified!
- Because God's principle disallows it!
- Because the Bible is here!

 **Looking Ahead**

Lesson 7: The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Suggested Reading: Joel 2; Acts 2; Acts 10;
Eph. 1:3