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THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 1

Holy Spirit is God



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Introduce the children to the concept of Trinity.
- To help children understand that the Holy Spirit is God.
- To help children understand the attributes of God in the Holy Spirit.
- To help children understand that the Holy Spirit relates to us as a person.



RECAP

- What did we learn last week?
- Recite last week's Memory Verse.



MEMORY VERSE

John 14: 16-17: "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth."

Materials Needed:

- Sheets of paper
- Laptop (to play video)



ATTENTION GETTER

Hand out sheets of paper to the children and ask them to write their thoughts on:

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?
2. Is the Holy Spirit God?
3. Where is the Holy Spirit?
4. What does He do for us?

Watch this video.

Video Presentation

Video: Who is the Holy Spirit? The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith.

Duration: 3 minutes

Note to the Facilitator:

Since the video presentation is too quick, it would be good to play it twice over so that the children understand everything that is said. Then briefly discuss and move on with the lesson, or you could stop playing the video at regular intervals, replay and discuss.

OR

The previous week, the children were asked to find out:

- The meaning of their names
- Who gave them those names
- Reason why their parents gave them those names
- Their nickname/names
- Who named them and why

Begin your class by asking the children to answer all the five statements given above. *(Do this activity quickly so that there is no waste of time).*

Ask:

Can you give me reasons why parents choose certain names for their children?

Explain:

One reason why parents choose certain names for their children is based on their expectation or desire of what they hope their child will become. The meaning of a certain name may emphasise a particular character trait that they would like to see developed in their child's life. Sometimes, a Christian parent selects a biblical name for their child, hoping the child will mature to become a man or woman of God just like the one after whom they are named. Even when a child is given a family name, the particular name chosen is often selected because of some admirable characteristic in the life of the relative after whom the child is named.

**INTRODUCTION**

During the next few weeks, we are going to study about a person whose names or titles are mentioned 500 times in the Scripture. Do you know who I am talking about? *(Let the children respond).*

The Holy Spirit

1. Who is the Holy Spirit? *(If the children answer He is God, avoid asking question 2).*
2. Is the Holy Spirit God?
3. Where is the Holy Spirit?
4. What does He do for us?

Today, we will answer two questions—who is the Holy Spirit and Is the Holy Spirit God? We will answer them by looking at the different names of the Holy Spirit in the Bible.

The name or title “Spirit” is used 500 times in the Bible with reference to the Holy Spirit. The New Testament mentions the Holy Spirit 264 times. The names of the Holy Spirit help us understand who He is, His nature, His attributes and His work in our lives and in the lives of believers. The names we will consider today particularly identify the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit.



TEACHING CONTENT

I. Trinity

Many people do not believe that the Holy Spirit is God. They say that He is a 'force' or 'power' of God. The Holy Spirit is not a force or power of God but He is God. Certain names of the Holy Spirit describe His nature, attributes and work that can be ascribed to God alone. A few of His names describe His relationship with the other two members of the Trinity—God the Father and God the Son; which will prove to us that the Holy Spirit is God.

Understanding the Trinity helps us to know that the Holy Spirit is God. The word 'Trinity' is not mentioned anywhere in the Bible, however, the word 'Godhead' is mentioned.

Romans 1:20 (KJV) says: "For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." The word 'Godhead' is what is commonly referred to as the "Holy Trinity." The words "Trinity" and "Triune" are just man's way of saying 'three in unity.' 1 John 5:7 (NKJV) mentions Trinity to us very clearly.

Read Aloud:

1 John 5:7 (NKJV): "For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one."

'Word' mentioned in this verse refers to Jesus Christ.

Let us look at one instance in the Bible—The Creation narrative in Genesis chapter 1 and John chapter 1, where we see the Trinity in action.

- Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
- Genesis 1:2 says, "Now the earth was formless, and empty; and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

- John 1:1-3 says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.”

The ‘Word’ referred to in John chapter 1 is Jesus Christ.

Even though the Bible says that “God” created the heavens and the earth, in Genesis 1:26a, God says “Let Us make man in **our** image, in **our** likeness” Here God is saying “let **us**” and “in **our** image” instead of “let Me” and “in My image,” indicating that all three persons of the Godhead are One and the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit were involved in Creation.

Let us look at this video that tries to explain to us the concept of Trinity.

Video Presentation

Video: Let’s Talk About the Trinity

Duration: 5 minutes and 58 seconds

Ask:

From the video we just watched, what did we learn about Trinity? (*Let the children respond*).

Explain:

There is one God in three persons and not three Gods.

Each person of the Trinity is God. The Father is God, The Son is God and The Holy Spirit is God.

Each of them have one nature but the Father is not the same person as the Son, the Son is not the same person as the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is not the same person as the Father. They are three distinct persons in one nature.

We have One God in three persons because God had different jobs He wanted to do. We will discuss about this in a little while.

From the concept of Trinity, we learn three things about the Holy Spirit:

- The Holy Spirit is God
- The Holy Spirit is a Person
- The Holy Spirit possesses the nature and the attributes of God

We can prove the above three points by looking at the different names of the Holy Spirit.

II. The Holy Spirit Is God

A. Holy Spirit and the Father are One

Let us look at two passages in Acts 2:17 and Joel 2:27-29 which will help us know that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, God's Spirit; not a separate 'person' or individual apart from God.

Read Aloud:

Acts 2:17: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out of My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams."

Peter was quoting the Old Testament Prophet, Joel:

Joel 2:28-29: "And afterward, I will pour out My Spirit all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions."

Turn to lesson 1 in your student workbook and we will look at the identity names of the Holy Spirit that reveal His Deity and His nature.

First, we will look at the names of Holy Spirit that reveal His oneness with the Father:

1. Spirit of God
2. The Breath of the Almighty
3. The Voice of God
4. The Spirit who is from God
5. Spirit of the Lord
6. The Glory of the Lord

These are only a few of the various 'identity' names of the Holy Spirit that emphasise aspects of His Deity and He being one with God the Father.

The Holy Spirit as *Elohim*/God

Some of the identity names of the Holy Spirit link Him to Elohim, an Old Testament name for God. These names include:

1. Breath of God
2. The Finger of God
3. The Fullness of God
4. The Gift of God
5. The Holy Spirit of God
6. The Seal of God
7. The Seal of the Living God
8. The Seven Spirits of God
9. The Seven Spirits of God Sent Out into All the Earth
10. The Spirit of God
11. The Spirit of Our God
12. The Spirit Who Is from God
13. The Spirit of the Holy God
14. The Spirit of the Living God
15. The Spirit of the Lord God

The Old Testament name Elohim, usually translated “God,” is by far the most common name for God in Scripture. This name is derived from the Hebrew word El, meaning “Strong One.” Therefore, Elohim is the Strong One. This name is used more than 2,500 times in the Old Testament, often to remind the reader of the strength or faithfulness of God and often used in connection with God’s rule over His creation. The various identity names of the Holy Spirit that link Him with Elohim tend to emphasise the divine nature of the Holy Spirit and Him being one with God the Father.

The Holy Spirit as *Jehovah*/LORD

Some of the identity terms of the Holy Spirit link Him to the name Jehovah, another Old Testament name for God. These terms include:

1. The Breath of the LORD
2. The Lord

3. The Spirit of the LORD
4. The Spirit of the Lord GOD
5. The Voice of the LORD

Although the name Jehovah is not a specific part of the title, the name Jehovah, printed LORD in many Bible translations, means “Self-existent One.” Self-existent One means that God does not depend on anything else for His survival. He is self-sufficient and eternal. If Elohim (God) is the primary name of God in Scripture, Jehovah (LORD) can be called the personal name of God in Scripture. The various identity names of the Holy Spirit that link Him with Jehovah emphasise the divine nature of the Holy Spirit and Him being one with God the Father.

The Holy Spirit as *Shekinah*/Glory

Two identity names of the Holy Spirit link Him to the Shekinah glory that was manifest in the wilderness wanderings, in the tabernacle and in the first Temple of Israel. In this regard, the Spirit is identified as:

1. The Glory of the Lord
2. The Spirit of Glory

The Shekinah glory of God was a self-revelation of the presence of God in the midst of His people. Originally, the pillar of fire by night and the cloud by day were the means by which God led Israel through the wilderness and protected them from the Egyptians. When the Shekinah glory filled the Temple built by Solomon, those who had come to praise and worship the Lord could do little more than stand back silently in awe of God’s unique presence among them. Throughout history, revivals of the Church have been described as God manifesting His glory among His people. When the identity names of the Holy Spirit link Him with the Shekinah glory of God, it is again a reminder that the Holy Spirit is God.

B. The Holy Spirit and God the Son—Jesus Christ are One

Just as certain names referring to the Holy Spirit emphasise His relationship to God the Father, so also other terms for Him describes His relationship with Jesus. Some of these names or descriptions were given to the Holy Spirit by Jesus. Others were used by the apostles to describe the relationship between Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Names that reveal the Holy Spirit's relationship with the second person of the Trinity—God the Son—Jesus Christ are:

1. The Spirit of His Son – The Holy Spirit has the same nature as Jesus.
2. The Spirit of Jesus – The Holy Spirit does the work of salvation.
3. The Spirit of Christ – The Holy Spirit assists in the threefold (prophet, priest and King) anointed office of the Son.
4. The Spirit of Jesus Christ – The Holy Spirit assists in the balanced ministry of the Son.
5. Spirit of Him Who Raised Up Jesus – By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was raised from death to life.
6. Spirit of the LORD – The Holy Spirit was the One who anointed Jesus
7. Spirit of the Lord GOD – To preach and empowered Him to do the miracles.

We see that the Holy Spirit has the same nature as Jesus and the Holy Spirit was involved in:

- His virgin birth.
- His ministry—anointed Jesus to preach and empowered Him to do miracles.
- Strengthened Him when He was tempted by the devil for 40 days.
- In assisting Jesus to fulfill His role and the salvation plan of God on earth.
- Raised Him from the dead.

III. Holy Spirit is a Person

When Jesus promised to His disciples about the Father sending the Holy Spirit, He said: "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever ... He lives with you and will be in you ..." (John 14:8). We see that Jesus uses the masculine pronoun, "He," rather than the neutral pronoun "it," when referring to the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit were just an influence, power or force, Jesus would not have referred to the Holy Spirit as a person. Since the Holy Spirit

is a Person, the masculine pronoun “Him” is used, just as it is used for God the Father and Jesus.

Throughout the Scriptures, the various attributes and actions of a personality are attributed to the Holy Spirit. Personality implies the existence of certain attributes: intellect, emotion and willpower.

Note to the Facilitator:

To save time you can assign each child a verse given below. After they record their answer in their workbook, let each child read the verse aloud and give the answer.

Say:

Given in your workbook are a few references. Read the verse and write the action of a personality which are attributed to the Holy Spirit:

1 Corinthians 2:11 – The intellectual ability of the Holy Spirit to know things.

Ephesians 1:17 – Holy Spirit possesses wisdom and revelation.

Romans 15:30 – Emotional aspect of the Holy Spirit - “the love of the Spirit.”

Romans 8:26 – Spirit’s empathises with our inner emotional struggles.

Ephesians 4:30 – The Holy Spirit can be grieved.

Isaiah 63:10 – We can rebel and grieve the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 – The Holy Spirit has the will and the ability to make decisions.

Summary of the verses mentioned above:

Paul emphasises the intellectual ability of the Holy Spirit to know things, “For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God” (1 Cor 2:11). Paul also understood that the Holy Spirit possessed wisdom and revelation. “I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you may know him better.” (Ephesians 1:17).

The emotional aspect of the Holy Spirit is also evident in the Scriptures. Paul described the positive emotions of the Holy Spirit when he referred to “the love

of the Spirit” (Romans 15:30). He also spoke of the Spirit’s ability to empathise with our inner emotional struggles: “In the same way, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. (Romans 8:26).”

The Holy Spirit has the ability to respond emotionally to the ideas and experiences He encounters: “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God” (Ephesians 4:30). Isaiah cited an example of how Israel “rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit” (Isaiah 63:10).

The Holy Spirit has a will and the ability to make decisions. In his discussion of spiritual gifts in the church at Corinth, Paul uses the title “the same Spirit” five times (1 Corinthians 12:4-11) in describing the Spirit’s independent choice to impart different gifts to different believers.

Elsewhere in the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit is also described as teaching, testifying, guiding, speaking, enlightening, commanding, interceding, sending workers, calling, comforting and working. These actions cannot be accomplished by a mere influence or force. Only a rational, emotional, active person could do all that the Scriptures teach that the Holy Spirit accomplishes.

Let us look at 10 names of the Holy Spirit that will give us more information regarding His nature and attributes (characteristics) that show us that the Holy Spirit has the nature that is unique to God alone.

IV. The Holy Spirit Possesses the Attributes that are Unique to God

A few titles (names) of the Holy Spirit in the Bible that reveal His characteristics, that are unique to God alone:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. The Breath of Life | – Self-existent and has the power to give life to creation |
| 2. The Eternal Spirit | – Without beginning without end |
| 3. The Spirit of Judgment | – God alone has the power and the authority to judge. Likewise, the Holy Spirit being God has the power to judge |

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 4. Your Generous Spirit | – His giving nature |
| 5. Your Good Spirit | – His attribute of goodness |
| 6. Holy Spirit | – His holy nature |
| 7. Spirit of Grace | – His nature to forgive and to bestow blessings |
| 8. Spirit of Truth | – His truthful nature |
| 9. Spirit of Wisdom | – His omniscience (All-knowing) |
| 10. Steadfast Spirit | – His unchanging character |

We see that the ten names of the Holy Spirit speak of him having the nature of God. God alone is self-existent—He does not depend on anything for His existence. God alone is holy and is unchanging in His character. He has no beginning and no end. God alone is all-knowing and He alone has the power to give life and forgive sins. Thus the Holy Spirit is God.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

Though the Bible speaks of the Godhead and there are 500 names of the Holy Spirit in the Bible which emphasise His nature as God and His relationship to the Father and Son; why don't people believe that He is God?

Firstly, some of the titles in the King James Version have contributed to misinformation about the Holy Spirit's name. The name "Holy Ghost" makes people think of Him as a Ghost and the name "Comforter" makes people think of Him as a quilt (blanket) on a bed, or someone who comes and comforts people at a funeral.

Secondly, perhaps people do not recognize the names of the Holy Spirit because Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come but He also emphasised a major thrust of His ministry would be glorifying Christ (see John 16:14). Since, the Holy Spirit talks more of Jesus than Himself, many Christians have concluded they

should not glorify the Holy Spirit. Hence, they do not speak to Him and do not know Him. As the Third Person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit should receive glory just as much as the Father and the Son.

Thirdly, why people do not recognise the Holy Spirit's name is because of His task. The Father initiated the process of salvation, and the Son carried it out on Calvary. But the Holy Spirit works in the heart of the believer to affect that which the Son has done.

Fourthly, the Holy Spirit is not recognised because He did not come in the flesh. No one doubts that Jesus was a person or that He had a body on earth. The most obvious; physical manifestation we see of the Holy Spirit is when He descended as a dove upon Jesus at His baptism (Mark 1:10), and as tongues of fire on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:3).

The video clip that we saw in the beginning of the lesson shows attempts made by people to illustrate the Trinity using an egg, apple and different forms of how H₂O exists. The video mentions that none of them are accurate ways of explaining the Trinity. Why?

None of the illustrations are accurate because the shell, white and yolk are parts of the egg, not the egg in themselves, just as the skin, flesh and seeds of the apple are parts of it, not the apple itself. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are not parts of God; each of them is God. The water illustration is somewhat better, but it still fails to adequately describe the Trinity. Liquid, vapor and ice are forms of water. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are not forms of God, each of them is God. So, while these illustrations may give us a picture of the Trinity, the picture is not entirely accurate. An infinite God cannot be fully described by a finite illustration. And we cannot understand this infinite God with our finite human minds and reasoning. We just believe by faith.

We learnt today that we have One God in three persons. Three persons because God had different jobs He wanted to do. What are the different roles/jobs of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit?

Role of the Father:

The Father is the Covenant-maker and the Sustainer. He is responsible for planning all that took place at creation and redemption (salvation) of mankind from sin. The Father chose the Son to be the One who would come as our Savior and die for our sins. He also chose the Holy Spirit as One who would come and live in us and help us.

Role of the Son:

Jesus died on the Cross for our sins. Neither God the Father nor God the Holy Spirit could do that. He accomplished God's plan of redemption and saved us from eternal death and hell. He is the Word, Mediator (who is now in heaven praying on behalf of us to the Father), Savior and One who made known to us the Father and His Kingdom by becoming man.

Role of the Holy Spirit:

The Holy Spirit anointed and empowered the Son for the work that He was sent by the Father to accomplish. After Jesus died, rose again and went back to the Father, He sent us a gift promised by the Father—the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the Disciples and empowered them to preach the gospel, heal the sick, raise the dead and cast out demons. The Holy Spirit convicts unbelievers of their sin and their need for a Savior. He guides, helps, teaches and comforts believers in their times of need.

How does our study today of knowing the identity names of the Holy Spirit that reveal His Deity and divine nature, help us?

Knowing the Holy Spirit as God helps us to give Him the reverence and respect that we do to God the Father and Jesus. Treating the Holy Spirit as anything less than God in our response to His leading in our lives, our thanksgiving for His gifts or our worship of His Person demonstrates our resistance to the Holy Spirit. This grieves Him and is sin.

Giving reverence to the Holy Spirit:

- Will influence our faith in God, our prayer lives and our worship; as a matter of fact, it will influence everything we do.

- It will help us see His greatness as One who is both trustworthy and worthy of our worship.
- It will help us understand ourselves better.
- It will lead us to personal repentance or renewal of our spiritual lives.

When Jesus promised His disciples about the Father sending the Holy Spirit, He said that the Holy Spirit will live in them forever. When we have reverence toward the Holy Spirit, we will be careful about what we do with and where we take our body, His temple. Many Christians would change their language, actions and the places they go to if they had an inner consciousness of reverence for the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Knowing about the Holy Spirit is the first step to knowing Him and allowing Him to work in our lives. After Jesus' ministry on earth, God the Father sent the Holy Spirit to help us. It is the ministry of the Holy Spirit that is so prominent, especially to us, who live in the church age. If we don't know what the work of the Holy Spirit is in our lives, we will never be able to receive His help and all that He is willing to give to us and do through us.



APPLICATION

From the different names of the Holy Spirit that we learnt today, we see the relationship that the Holy Spirit shares with the Father and Son. This is important in us having a vital relationship with God. From the beginning, it has been God's desire to dwell with people and have fellowship with them. He prepared a garden where He met with Adam and Eve regularly. Later, He gave Moses the plans for the Tabernacle, and His glory rested in the Holy Place in the center of His people. When the Tabernacle wore out with age, Solomon built a temple, which again was filled with the glory of God. Then, in the fullness of time, God became man and dwelt among us. As Jesus prepared to go back to the Father, He promised He would send another Helper—the Holy Spirit. In this age, the Holy Spirit is the means by which God dwells in and among His people.

Is it not amazing to know that the God who is all-powerful, holy and who created the universe chooses to fellowship and dwell with man? So much so that He became

man to live with us and die for your sins and my sins! This same God, thereafter did not leave us as orphans but sent the Holy Spirit to dwell (live) in us and make us like Him, and help us live our lives here on earth in accordance with God's will and plan.

What is your response to all that God has done? Are you willing to accept this God and make Him the Lord of your life? God chooses to live in you and in your life, and show Himself strong on your behalf.

For those of you who accepted the Lord as your Savior but failed to acknowledge the presence and working of God the Holy Spirit in your life, make up your minds today and decide right now to start opening that door to develop an awareness of the reality of the Holy Spirit within you. Start fellowshiping with Him by speaking to Him every day.

Note to the Facilitator:

For those who have not accepted the Lord Jesus as their personal Savior, you can lead them in praying the salvation prayer and welcoming the Holy Spirit into their lives. For those who accepted the Lord Jesus as their personal Savior but have not acknowledged the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, you can lead them in a prayer of forgiveness.

Say:

Each day of this week, thank God for His plan of salvation and for fulfilling the plan of salvation, so that you and I can be free from the bondage of sin and receive eternal life. Thank the Holy Spirit for living in you so He can make you perfect in God's image. Also get familiar with the Holy Spirit by speaking to Him every moment and acknowledging His presence in your life.

Come next week to share your experience of fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 2

Indwelling Work of the Holy Spirit



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn that the Holy Spirit is another helper just like Jesus.
- To introduce the children to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.



RECAP

- What did we learn last week?
- Recite last week's Memory Verse.



MEMORY VERSE

John 14:16–17 (NKJV): “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

Materials Needed:

- Pencil case/box with the following items:
Blue/black ball point pen

Red pen
Whitener
Eraser
Glue stick

- Laptop (to play video)



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we looked at a few names of the Holy Spirit in the Bible and answered the questions—who is the Holy Spirit? Is the Holy Spirit God?

In our lesson today, we will answer the questions—where is the Holy Spirit and what is His work/role in our lives? We will try answering these questions by looking at a few more names of the Holy Spirit. Some of the works of the Holy Spirit are attributed to His indwelling presence in us which we will look at today. In the coming weeks, we will look at a few works of the Holy Spirit which are attributed to how He can use us as His powerful witnesses to build God’s Kingdom.



TEACHING CONTENT

Jesus’ favorite name for the Holy Spirit was probably “**Helper**.” Of all the things the Holy Spirit does, He helps us obtain personal salvation that was accomplished for us on the Cross. Jesus promised His disciples, “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever” (John 14:16). The Greek word “helper” is ‘parakletos,’ and may be translated “helper, comforter, advocate or one called alongside.”

When Jesus said the Father will send “another Helper,” He used the Greek word ‘allos’ for ‘other’ which means “another of the same kind.” He meant the Holy Spirit is another Helper just as Jesus is our Helper and not someone different from Jesus.

How is the Holy Spirit our Helper?

I. Holy Spirit is Our Helper

To help us remember how the Holy Spirit helps us, I am going to use a few objects from a pencil box. Your pencil box or pouch is an important part of your student life. By linking the work of the Holy Spirit to a few objects from my pencil box/pouch, I am trying to help you remember His work in your life. This does not mean that the work of the Holy Spirit is similar to that object.

The Holy Spirit is our helper—something like this pen (hold up a blue/black ball-point pen) which helps you write down notes and helps you express your thoughts, and what you learnt in words.

The Holy Spirit helps unsaved people accept Jesus by revealing their sin to them. The Holy Spirit convicts them of their sin by enabling them to seek salvation.

There are names in the Bible given to the Holy Spirit that involves these two aspects of His work in our lives:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| The Eternal Spirit | – His priestly role in intercession for the unsaved. |
| The Spirit of Grace | – He accepts the sinner for salvation. |
| The same Spirit of Faith | – He enables the sinner to believe. |

Video Presentation

Video: Monty's Testimony

Duration: 5 minutes and 26 seconds

After the children have watched the video say:

This video talks of how the Holy Spirit works in revealing God's Love to us, drawing us close to God, convicting and helping us overcome sin, sanctifies us and helps us to live for Him. Let us learn how He does it in our lives.

A. Holy Spirit Helps to Convict Us of Sin

The Holy Spirit helps to convict us of sin in three ways:

First, He helps people see their sin—something like the red pen (hold up a red pen) which the teacher uses to point out the mistakes we have made, or uses red ink to mark a wrong answer. Jesus said the Holy Spirit will help convict people “of sin, because they do not believe in Me” (John 16:9). Therefore, the Holy Spirit helps an

unbeliever accept salvation by pointing out their sin and unbelief, and leads them to Christ. If an unbeliever cannot see they are sinners in the eyes of God, then they will see no reason to accept what Jesus has done for them with His sacrificial death on the Cross.

For born-again believers, the Holy Spirit points out their sins and shows them where they are going wrong. If not, they would easily get knocked off the path that God has paved for their lives.

Second, Jesus said the Holy Spirit would convict us “of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more” (John 16:10). The Holy Spirit helps people see themselves in relationship to Jesus Christ. He helps them see their short comings that they do not measure up to Jesus Christ, who is holy and who is God’s righteous standard. Something like this whitener which we use to cover a mistake we made in our note book. Whenever we see the whitener in our note book we know we made a mistake.

Third, the Holy Spirit helps people come to Christ by convicting them “of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged” (John 16:11). This judgment does not refer to the final judgment but to the judgment of satan and sin, at the Cross where Christ died. When a person realises the agony and suffering with which Jesus died on the Cross because of their sins, they will repent of their sins and accept Jesus.

B. Holy Spirit Indwells in Us

When a person is convicted of sin, repents and asks Jesus to come into their life, the Holy Spirit comes and indwells in them.

Jesus promised His disciples in John 14:16 that after He goes back to the Father He would ask the Father to send them the Holy Spirit who would be with them forever. Not just with a few believers for some time, but with all believers forever.

John 14:16: “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever ...”

Thus, the Holy Spirit will dwell in all believers forever. How wonderful to know that this holy and powerful God wants to dwell in us forever.

C. Regenerates Us

When a person repents of their sins and asks Jesus to come into their lives, the Holy Spirit comes and indwells in them. We call this experience as being “born-again,” and the Bible calls this new life as “Regeneration.” This is used only once in the Bible in the context of salvation, and it relates to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5).

This regenerative work of the Holy Spirit gives us:

A new life—new nature that has the power to say no to the old nature of sin and has the capacity to please Christ in everything we do.

Makes us part of God’s family—we are sons and daughters of God. Hence, we are entitled to every spiritual and physical blessing.

Gives us eternal life, this is not just life unending; it is a new quality of life (i.e., God’s life). The Holy Spirit removes our dirty old nature and attitudes, and makes us new.

We can remember this work of the Holy Spirit when we see an eraser. An eraser totally removes whatever we do not want permanently and leaves no trace of it.

The names of the Holy Spirit that show us this aspect of His work in our lives are:

A New Spirit – He gives the repentant sinner a new nature.

The Spirit of Life – He makes the convert alive to God.

D. Holy Spirit Seals Us

The name of the Holy Spirit that shows us this aspect of His work in our lives is:

The Spirit of Adoption—He makes us heirs of God.

When the Holy Spirit indwells in us, He seals us with Himself to guarantee our salvation. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is more than the One who seals us; He is our seal. “You were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession” (Ephesians 1:13, 14).

Paul used a first-century custom to tell us how the Holy Spirit is our seal. In the ancient world, a person would seal a letter with candle wax, and then place his signet ring into the melted wax as the seal. When the recipient got the letter, the unbroken seal in the hardened wax guaranteed that the content was genuine. In like manner, the Holy Spirit is the seal of our salvation. He guarantees that we belong to God, and that we are His children.

Something like this glue stick or glue, that you use to stick a label on your book or on a thing that belongs to you, to show others that that thing belongs to you, and that it is your property and you are the owner.

E. Holy Spirit Sanctifies Us

The Holy Spirit not only seals us but also sanctifies us. Sanctification is a major ministry that the Holy Spirit has with each believer after they are born again. His primary name, Holy Spirit, has a two-fold implication. First, as His name implies, He makes us holy by motivating us to repent and turn away from sin. Second, He sets us apart for Himself and will transform us by renewing our minds and making us like Jesus.

All this the Holy Spirit will only do only when we cooperate with Him. So how do we cooperate with the Holy Spirit? By reading our Bible and praying every day. If we do not spend good regular quality time in reading the Bible and praying, then the Holy Spirit is not going to move on the inside of us to sanctify us to the degree that God would really want. That is why true sanctification is accomplished by both the Word and the Spirit working together.

Why can the Holy Spirit sanctify us only when we spend time reading the Bible? Jesus in his prayer to the Father, said in John 17:17: Sanctify them by the truth, your Word is the truth. God's Word is truth and when we read God's Word, it alone can reveal our sins and weaknesses. And once we are aware of our sins, the Holy Spirit will help us overcome them.

Let us watch video to see how else the Holy Spirit ministers to us.

Video Presentation**Video:** The Holy Spirit our Bible Teacher.**Duration:** From beginning to 2 minutes and 9 seconds*After the children have watched the video, ask them:*

In the video we just watched, what is the other ministry or role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. *(Let the children answer).*

The Holy Spirit is our teacher.

II. Holy Spirit is Our Teacher

The Holy Spirit performs all the duties a teacher does: He guides, reveals, teaches, tells, shows, leads and as a human teacher would do even reproves, corrects and convicts us.

Some of the teaching names of the Holy Spirit are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| The anointing | – He removes spiritual blindness |
| The Spirit of Counsel | |
| The Spirit of Revelation | |
| The Spirit of Truth | – He communicates truth |
| The Spirit of Knowledge | – He makes believers know facts about God |
| The Spirit of Wisdom | |
| The Spirit of Understanding | |

Jesus said in John 14:26, “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” The Holy Spirit teaches us all things and reminds us of everything that Jesus said.

A. Holy Spirit Teaches Us All Things

The Holy Spirit teaches us the truth and helps us understand the truth. Therefore we can depend more on the Holy Spirit than human teachers who may or may not teach the truth. Jesus said in John 16:13 that the Spirit will guide us into all truth.

What does 'All' truth mean?

Firstly, the Holy Spirit prevents believers from being involved in cult groups—where wrong doctrines are taught—by revealing the lies in those doctrines and making known the truth to us.

Secondly, because of our sin we are worldly-minded and spiritually blind, when we are born-again, the Holy Spirit removes our spiritual blindness. As a result, we'll begin to know God's plans for our lives and what He is doing in and through our lives.

Thirdly, The Holy Spirit helps us understand the truth from God's Word (1 Corinthians 2:9-14).

Read Aloud:

1 Corinthians 2:9-14: "However, as it is written: 'What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived' the things God has prepared for those who love Him—these are the things God has revealed to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God ... The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit."

The Holy Spirit is not only the author of the divine revelation—The Bible—but He also interprets what He has revealed. When you read the Bible, ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to the wondrous things in God's Word. He will interpret the revelation in the Bible to us and will reveal to us the deep secrets known only to God. That is why He is known as the Spirit of Revelation. When He reveals things to us from God's Word, we will no longer find it boring, but will enjoy reading God's Word. Not only will the Holy Spirit help us understand what all of the different Scripture verses mean but He will help us know how we can apply them to the different areas of our lives. *(To explain this, give an example from your life).*

Fourthly, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Wisdom; He will help us see things from God's point of view so that we can know the real truth in many different matters of

our lives. And once we know what the real truth is with regard to a certain matter that we may be dealing with, then we will know how to properly handle it. *(To explain this, give an example from your life).*

Fifthly, as the Spirit of Understanding the Holy Spirit helps us make the correct choices and decisions regarding different things in our lives. *(To explain this, give an example from your life).*

To help us understand what I just said, let us watch this video.

Video Presentation 2

Video: The Holy Spirit reminds us of the Truth.

Duration: 5minutes 26 seconds

After the children have watched the video, say:

How did the Holy Spirit convict Sophia? *(Let the children answer).*

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. All of us make decisions based on some guiding principles in our lives. Sophia realised that apart from her own conscience, there is a more powerful Person—the Holy Spirit—at work, teaching and guiding her decisions.

B. Holy Spirit Brings to Remembrance the Words of Jesus

The Holy Spirit also brings to mind the teachings and promises of Jesus when we need them, when we are facing a problem or when we are ministering and praying for others or for ourselves.

The Holy Spirit's most intense desire is to reveal Jesus Christ to men. He is willing and longing to do it when we allow Him to.

III. Holy Spirit is Our Intercessor

Two terms for the intercessory work of the Holy Spirit in our lives are:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| The Spirit of Supplication | – He motivates the believer to pray. |
| The Spirit of Access | – His role in helping us to pray. |

The Holy Spirit is our Intercessor who prays for the believer, with the believer and in the place of the believer. Why? "For we do not know what we should pray for

as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” (Romans 8:26). We are not always aware of what to pray for, in some specific need. The Holy Spirit makes sure the believer always prays properly. That means, no matter how or what the believer prays, the Holy Spirit makes the words come out right when presented to the Father in heaven.

Romans 8:27 says, “... the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.” Not only does the Holy Spirit teaches us and helps us to pray but also helps us pray in accordance to God’s will.

Thus far, we learnt how the Holy Spirit helps, teaches and intercedes for us. We will look at one more important aspect of the work of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Let us watch this video to find out what it is.

Video Presentation

Video: The Holy Spirit is our Guide.

Duration: 2 minutes and 10 seconds

After the children have watched the video, ask:

In the video we just watched, what is the other ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives? *(Let the children respond).*

The Holy Spirit guides us. We saw in this video that when Stormie O Martian obeyed the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it saved the life of her entire family.

IV. The Holy Spirit Is Our Guide

Jesus said in John 16:13—“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth.” Jesus does not promise that the Holy Spirit will control us. He says He will **guide** us. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, helps believers discern between what is true and what is not; what is wise and what is foolish; what is best and what is simply OK. Each day is full of decisions. Most of our decisions concern issues not clearly spelled out in the Scriptures, for example, which college or course to choose, which country to study in, which company to join or who to marry.

As you are flooded with the details of everyday living, the Holy Spirit will guide you. He will give you that extra on-the-spot sense of discernment that you need to make both big and small decisions. As you develop a greater sensitivity to His guidance, you will worry much less about the decisions you make. Why? Because the Holy Spirit is a trustworthy guide and He is the only person who can communicate God's will to us because He lives in us and has direct access to our minds, emotions and consciences.

The Holy Spirit does not just guide us in the more important matters concerning our lives but also in the trivial things as well. Let us watch this video on how he guided a 4-year old girl.

Video Presentation

Video: The Holy Spirit guides in trivial things too.

Duration: 1 minute 20 seconds



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

Video Presentation

Video: The Invisible Helper

Duration: 5minutes and 18 seconds

Sometimes we find ourselves caught in situations where we cannot fully explain or express ourselves. How can we handle this?

Jesus promised His disciples that after He goes back to the Father, He would ask the Father to send them the Holy Spirit who would be with **all** believers **forever**. The Holy Spirit is with us always as our helper, comforter, and guide. We need not worry how to handle life's situations and circumstances because He will help us and guide us if we allow Him to.

How is the Holy Spirit our Helper in these situations?

It is in these situations that we need someone who understands us deeply, who will be beside us and speak up on our behalf, and defend us.

How did Linda and Mary discover that they have an invisible friend who is able to help them do the right thing?

They allowed the Holy Spirit to be their teacher and guide.

Video Presentation

Video: My Best Friend

Duration: 4 minutes and 30 seconds

Discuss some of the feelings Jasmine was going through.

Jasmine was lonely and felt her parents did not love or care about her.

All of us need a best friend and someone we can confide in. For some, this could be one of our peers, for others, it is a family member. For Jasmine who was it?

It was someone we cannot see who is closer than family—The Holy Spirit!

How is the Holy Spirit your best friend?

The Holy Spirit has come to give you a personal encounter with God. Just as Jesus came to reveal the love of the Father, the Holy Spirit has come to reveal the love of the Father and of the Son. He will pour into your life a love that you cannot describe.

As your friend, the Holy Spirit will come alongside you to comfort, encourage, help, guide, enable and strengthen you. Jesus promised to send another Helper. Whatever your problem may be, your Helper has the solution.



APPLICATION

What kind of friend would you like to have? You would definitely want a friend to love you, to care about you and your problems and to share in your happiness. Would you want this friend to be honest, to tell you the truth even when it hurts, and to point out your faults with kindness in order to help you do better? Maybe

you would like your friend to be wiser, stronger, and better than you are. And the more time you would spend together, the more likely that like your friend you would become stronger, wiser and better than you are now.

Do you sometimes feel that no one understands you or cares about your problems? Do you need someone who you can share with about what you are going through and help, encourage and guide you? God understands and cares about you! He knows just what you need. He loves you so much that He sent His Holy Spirit to be your special Friend and Helper.

The Holy Spirit is our Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener and Standby (John 14:16, The Amplified Bible). His ministry is to bear us up, to help us and to strengthen us.

The Holy Spirit should be your best friend. He was sent here to encourage you and constantly assure you of God's love. He is the most important and most powerful person in your life. He wants to come and live big on the inside of you! He wants you to make Him welcome on the inside of you, so that He can have His way in you and so you can be what He wants you to be, and say what He wants you to say, and do what He wants you to do. The Holy Spirit wants to become real to you and He wants you to acknowledge Him in all that you do!

Would you like to have the Holy Spirit as your Friend and Helper?

Do you want to know the Holy Spirit better?

Do you want the Spirit of truth to teach you?

What is your response to Him today?

Lead the children in a prayer of inviting the Holy Spirit to be everything to them and commit themselves to knowing the Holy Spirit better and having a relationship with Him.

Come back next week to share testimonies of how you experienced the Holy Spirit as your teacher, guide, intercessor and counselor.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



THE HOLY SPIRIT

Infilling Power of the Holy Spirit



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Children will understand the difference between water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism.
- Children will learn that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift of God and we receive it by faith.
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for all believers.
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit empowers us to be His powerful witnesses on earth.



RECAP

- What did we learn last week?
- Recite last week's Memory Verse.



MEMORY VERSE

Acts 2:17-21: ... I will pour out of My Spirit on all people. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they shall prophesy."

Materials Needed:

- Tool Box with the following tools—hammer, screw driver, cutting player, spanner, wrench, scissors, whisk, wooden spoon, tea spoon, pen, ruler and Bible
- Laptop (to play video)

**INTRODUCTION**

Last week, we answered the question—where is the Holy Spirit? (*Ask the children to answer the question*).

When a person believes and accepts Jesus into their lives, the Holy Spirit comes and indwells in them forever, just as Jesus promised His disciples in John 14:16: “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever...”

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples who were all huddled in a room out of fear for the Jews. Jesus said to them:

Read Aloud:

John 20:21-22: “‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you.’ And with that He breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”

When Jesus said ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’ He was referring to receiving the Holy Spirit as a born-again experience. The disciples could not have been born-again until Jesus paid the price for sin. When the disciples had the experience of being born-again, the Holy Spirit came and indwelt in them. Thus, Jesus’ promise of the Holy Spirit indwelling with them and in them forever (John 14:16) was fulfilled.

Last week, we also learnt the work of the Holy Spirit as a result of His indwelling presence in our lives. But there is so much more that the Holy Spirit gives and does in our lives. Let us see what more He can do in our lives.

**ATTENTION GETTER****Preparation:**

If you have a tool box at home you can use it or you can prepare one by putting a few tools like the hammer, screw driver, cutting player, spanner, wrench and

scissors in a box. To your tool box, also add a whisk, wooden spoon, tea spoon, pen, ruler and Bible

Say:

I brought along my tool box to class this morning. What are some of the items people have in a tool box? *(Let the children respond)*. Take out each tool and let the children say for what job each is used. *(Do this quickly)*.

(Ask them if they were surprised when you pulled out the whisk, wooden spoon, pen, ruler and a Bible). God has many different tools in His toolbox (the Church). Each is special and has a special purpose. We expected to find a hammer, screwdriver and wrench in the toolbox but not a whisk. A whisk is very useful in beating an egg while cooking.

In the same way, many times we only expect God to use pastors, deacons, elders or Sunday school teachers. In reality, God wants to use each and every one of us. He will equip each one of us so that we can be mightily and powerfully used by Him.

Today, we will learn the work of the Holy Spirit which is attributed to His infilling power in us so that each one of us, whether we are children or adults can be His powerful witnesses to continue the work that Jesus began on earth.

Before He ascended into heaven, Jesus told His disciples in Acts 1:4-5: "... Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Facts about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

(Ask the children the below questions and allow them to answer or share their thoughts.)

Ask:

- What are the two kinds of Baptism Jesus mentions in Acts 1:4-5?
Water Baptism and Holy Spirit Baptism.
- Is there a difference in the two? If so what is the difference?
- Does a person who is baptised in water need to be baptised in the Holy Spirit as well?

- Should a person be baptised first in water to be eligible to be baptised in the Holy Spirit?
- Is the baptism of the Holy Spirit the same as being Born-Again or being saved?

Say:

To help us answer these questions let's look at an incident in Acts 8 that took place in the Early Church.

Acts 8:5-6 (NKJV): "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

Acts 8:12 (NKJV): "But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized."

Acts 8:14-17 (NIV): "When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the Word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."

In this incident, we see that the apostle Philip preaches the good news in Samaria and many believed, and were baptised (baptised in water) in Jesus' name. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard this, they sent Peter and John to Samaria to baptise the believers with the Holy Spirit. When Peter and John placed their hands on the believers, they received the Holy Spirit.

From this incident we learn:

- That baptism of the Holy Spirit is not the same experience as being born-again or being saved.
- A person is baptised in the Holy Spirit only after they are born-again.
- When a person is baptised in water, he is not baptised with the Holy Spirit. This means that water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism is not the same. Water Baptism is an outward sign that a person has accepted Jesus in their lives. It is

also a way of declaring to the church family that they have accepted Jesus and are 'born-again.'

- All the believers who were baptised in the water needed to be baptised with the Spirit. That is why the apostles sent Peter and John to baptise them in the Spirit.
- The people in Samaria were baptised in the Holy Spirit a few days after they were born-again, just like the disciples who waited in Jerusalem a few days before they were baptised with the Holy Spirit as we read in Acts 2:1-13.

Read Aloud:

Acts 2:1-4: "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

In another incident, recorded in the book of Acts, all the people gathered in Cornelius house were baptised in the Holy Spirit when Peter neared the end of his sermon. When Peter was telling them that those who believe in Jesus will receive forgiveness of sins the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message and they were baptised in the Spirit. The disciples who had come along with Peter were astonished to see that all the Gentiles filled with the Spirit. Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? ... So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ" (Acts 10: 47-48).

In this incident we see:

- All the people were baptised in the Holy Spirit at the same time they were born again.
- They were first baptised with the Holy Spirit then in water.
- God made known to the disciples that the baptism of the Holy Spirit was not only for Jews but for the Gentiles as well.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for All Believers

God made known to the Jews that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is given not only to the Jewish descendants but to all people—that includes all of us. This was prophesied in Joel 2:28-31 and the same prophecy is quoted by Peter in Acts 2:17-21 and Acts 2:39.

Read Aloud:

Joel 2:28-29: "... I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out My Spirit in those days."

Acts 2:39: "The promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Speaking in Tongues is the First Outward Evidence of Being Baptised in the Spirit

In all the three incidents we just looked at, how did Peter and John and the other disciples know that those they ministered to were baptised with the Holy Spirit. *(Let the children respond).*

They heard them speaking in tongues. It is clearly mentioned in Acts 2 that when the disciples were baptised with the Holy Spirit, they spoke in different kinds of tongues. However, speaking in tongues is not mentioned in the other two passages we looked at. The disciples knew that the people they ministered to were baptised with the Holy Spirit because they heard them speaking in tongues.

Speaking in tongues is a supernatural gift of God and the first outward evidence that a person is baptised in the Spirit. It is speaking in an unknown language, in a language that the person does not know or has not learned; but God knows and understands.

We speak in tongues when the Holy Spirit gives us the utterances or releases the words into our spirit as it is mentioned in Acts 2:4: "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit enabled them."

From our spirit, these words flow out through our vocal organs. We speak these out by faith and as an act of our will. While there are other uses for speaking in tongues, the primary purpose of praying in tongues is for us to speak to God and not to men. So this language is sometimes called a prayer language or heavenly language.

Infilling Power of the Holy Spirit

Why did Jesus tell His disciples to wait in Jerusalem, to be baptised with the Holy Spirit. Jesus wanted His disciples to be baptised in the Holy Spirit so that they can be empowered to be His witnesses. Jesus told His disciples in Acts 1:8:

Read Aloud:

Acts 1:8: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Jesus also wanted His disciples to continue to do the same miracles and even greater things than what He Himself had done. Jesus said in John 14:12: “I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

Jesus knew it would take the same power and anointing of the Holy Spirit that was upon Him that would enable His disciples and us to do the things He had done. The same power that was upon Jesus came upon the Church on the Day of Pentecost when the disciples were baptised with the Holy Spirit.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is an infilling of spiritual power. The Greek word ‘*dunamis*,’ translated power, means ‘ability’ and ‘might.’ When you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you receive the ability of God to do His work on earth. We receive power to be witnesses and share about Jesus to others. We also receive power to do the same miracles that Jesus did—heal the sick, raise the dead and cast out demons—just as the disciples did after they were baptised in the Spirit.

Just as Jesus said, the disciples on the day of Pentecost received power when they were baptised in the Holy Spirit. After this, we see them no longer being those

timid and frightened disciples who lacked faith and power, and we read in the book of Acts that they did the same miracles that Jesus did.

Let us look at a few passages in Scripture to see how the disciples were before and after they were baptised in the Spirit.

Note to the Facilitator:

Divide the children into 3 groups of three each. Ask them to read the passages and write down in their workbooks, in one line, the attitude or reaction of the disciples. After all the groups have finished, let each one present to the other groups their findings. After each group has presented their findings, the teacher can briefly summarise.

Group I

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Matthew 17:16-21 | – Disciples lacked the faith to heal. |
| Act 2:43 | – Disciples performed many miraculous signs and wonders. |
| Acts 5: 12, 15, 16 | – Disciples healed the sick and cast out demons. Peter's shadow was able to heal many. |
| Acts 8:5-7 | – Philip healed the sick and cast out demons. |

Summary: Jesus rebuked the disciples for their lack of faith to heal. These same disciples after they were baptised in the Spirit were able to heal all the sick and cast out demons. Even Peter's shadow was able to heal many.

Group II

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Matthew 26:56 | – When Jesus was arrested in the garden to Gethsemane, the disciples fled. |
| John 20: 19 | – The disciples hid themselves for fear of the Jews. |
| Mark 16:9–14 | – Jesus rebuked the disciples for their lack of faith and unbelief. |
| Acts 4:31 | – The disciples spoke the word boldly. |

- Acts 5:40–42 – Even though the disciples were warned by the leaders and authorities not to speak in the Name of Jesus and had them beaten yet the disciples day after day preached in the Temple courts. They also went house to house and proclaimed the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

Summary: When Jesus was arrested, the disciples all fled out of fear that they too would be arrested and killed. When Jesus rose from the dead, the disciples hid themselves from the Jewish leaders and refused to believe Mary who reported to them that Jesus had risen. Jesus rebuked them for their lack of faith and stubbornness to believe those who told them that He had risen.

These same disciples after they were baptised in the Spirit spoke the word boldly. They preached day after day in the temple and went house to house, and preached in spite of being persecuted, beaten and warned not to do so.

Group III

- Mark 14: 66-72 – Peter denied Jesus three times out of fear that he too will be arrested like Jesus.
- John 18:7-11 – When the soldiers came to the Garden of Gethsemane to capture Jesus, Peter was very angry and reacted violently. He cut off the ear of the High Priest's servant.
- Acts 4:1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10-13 – Peter was arrested and put in jail. When the authorities asked Peter and John by what power or name do they heal, Peter who was filled with the Spirit said that he heals people in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth whom they had crucified and whom God raised from the dead.

Summary: Peter denied Jesus three times, out of fear that he too will be arrested and killed along with Jesus. After he was baptised in the Spirit, even though he was jailed and brought before the authorities, and questioned by them, he boldly tells

them that he healed the sick and performed signs of miracles, and wonders in the power and name of Jesus.

We see such a transformation in the lives of the disciples after they were baptised in the Spirit. They were able to powerfully witness and share about Jesus, and do extraordinary miracles like Jesus did. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not just for older people, it is also for children. When children are filled with the Holy Spirit, it is not a Junior Holy Spirit that comes upon them nor do they speak in 'baby-tongues.' Children receive the same Holy Spirit that Peter and John did. Speak in tongues just like they did and also receive the same power that will enable them to do the same miracles that the disciples did.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

Did the disciples and people who were baptised in Samaria have to do anything to be baptised with the Holy Spirit? Why? To find the answer read Ephesians 4:7-8 and Psalms 68:18.

No! Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift from God. No amount of effort, good works and charity from us can earn the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 4:7-8, and KJV translation of Psalm 68:18 tell us that the Lord Jesus Christ received the Holy Spirit for us, even for those of us who are rebellious.

Let us watch a video in which we will see the Holy Spirit touching and baptising prisoners in a maximum security prison. This will help us understand that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is God's gift for the rebellious and hard-hearted people as well.

Video Presentation

Video: Holy Spirit baptising prisoners in a prison.

Duration: 3minutes and 30 seconds

What makes one eligible to receive the Holy Spirit? To find the answer read Galatians 3:1-2 and Isaiah 44:3.

The disciples and believers in Samaria were baptised in the Holy Spirit only after they were born again. Similarly, all those who believe in Jesus and are saved will receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Galatians 3:1-2 says that we receive the Holy Spirit by faith, and not by works.

In Isaiah 44:3, the Lord says that He would pour out His Holy Spirit on all those who thirst. If you already believe in Jesus Christ start praying and desire to be baptised in the Holy Spirit. Praying and desiring for the Holy Spirit. This would make you thirst for the Holy Spirit. The Lord has promised that He would pour out His Spirit on the thirsty.

The disciples and people in Samaria were baptised in the Holy Spirit a few days after they were born again. Does it take months and years before people are baptised in the Spirit? Read the testimony of a great minister of God Dr. D G S Dhinakaran (also known as Apostle of Love) to see how long he waited before he was baptised in the Spirit.

Dr. Dhinakaran was depressed and unable to bear the anguish of poverty, sickness, unemployment and many failures in life. In an attempt to put an end to all these miseries, he walked towards the railway track to end his life. On the way, he met his uncle who shared about Jesus Christ.



After Dr. D G S Dhinakaran received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour, he started seeking the Lord fervently, reading the Scriptures and waiting in the presence of the Lord for many hours. He was diligently seeking the Lord for seven long years. He was pleading, "Lord! Hear my prayer and grant me your power! I don't want to live a dried up Christian life anymore!" He wanted to have communion with God like the saints in the Bible. On 10th October 1962, during family prayer, a divine presence filled that room. He saw Jesus face-to-face and heard Him say, "I am Jesus. I have come to bless you." The Lord then filled him with His Holy Spirit.

This man of God waited seven years to be baptised in the Holy Spirit. The disciples waited a few days, but we see that the people in Cornelius' house were baptised in the Spirit at the very same time they believed in Jesus. The Holy Spirit works in different ways in the lives of different people. So we cannot give a particular time frame within which a person will be baptised in the Holy Spirit.

If we want to be baptised with the Spirit, should we too pray like Dr. Dhinakaran did or should we just wait to receive this gift from God? To find the answer read Luke 11:9-13.

A few people have testified that they were baptised with the Holy Spirit without them praying and asking God, while others have asked God to fill them with His power. It is important for us to pray and wait on the Lord to be baptised with the Holy Spirit. Luke 11:13 says that if we ask God the Father, He will give us the Holy Spirit. However, Luke 18:1 says that we need to continually and consistently pray without giving up. Some of us might have prayed for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for a few days, maybe for a few weeks or maybe even for a few years. But God has promised that He will give us the Holy Spirit if we ask Him and if we pray without losing heart.

The believers in Samaria received the Holy Spirit when Peter and John laid hands on them and prayed. Can people receive the Holy Spirit even if there is no one to lay hands on them and pray?

There is no rule that a person will be baptised with the Holy Spirit only when someone lays hands on them and prays for them. On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were baptised in the Holy Spirit without anyone laying hands on them. So also in the case of the people in Cornelius' house.

Let us watch a video in which we will see a few young people in the US who were touched by the power of the Holy Spirit. Though no one personally laid hands on them. However, a few of them were touched by the power of the Holy Spirit when the man of God laid His hands on them.

Video Presentation

Video: The move of the Holy Spirit on young people in US.

Duration: 3 minutes and 30 seconds

Based on 1 Corinthians 13:8, people say that tongues were important during the establishment of the Early Church. Now since the church is established, tongues have ceased or stopped. Do you think this is true?

Tongues will cease when we get to heaven and it will not happen during this church age. When we are in heaven, there will be no need for tongues because we will be in the presence of God and there won't be any need for mysteries or secrets that have to be revealed to us.

Based on 1 Corinthians 12:28–30 people say, that speaking in tongues are not necessary for all believers. Do you think this is true?

In this verse, Paul is not talking about the gifts of the Spirit, but about the specific ministry appointments (apostles, prophets, teachers, miracle workers etc.) of specific individuals to fulfill specific functions in the Body of Christ—the Church. Therefore these appointments are not for all believers.

Just as all of us can teach the Word of God, but not all of us are appointed as Teachers or Pastors in the church, so also, all believers can speak in tongues, but not all of us are given ministry functions where we need to operate in different tongues.

Jesus promised in Mark 16:17, that the ability to speak with new tongues is for everyone who believes. Acts 2:17-18 says that God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh. Baptism of the Spirit and the gift of speaking in tongues are God's gifts for all believers who desire them.

Can a person pray in tongues anywhere and at any time?

Just as we can pray and sing anywhere and at any time; so also we can pray and sing in the Spirit anytime and anywhere, as we desire.

In 1 Corinthians 14:14-16 Paul says he will pray with his spirit. What is the meaning of praying in the spirit?

In this verse, Paul mentions different terms such as “pray in a tongue,” “pray with my spirit,” “sing with my spirit,” etc. All of these refer to the same expression ‘speaking in tongues.’ Praying in tongues is also referred to as “praying in the Spirit,” since our spirits are enabled by the Holy Spirit when we pray. In the New

Testament, wherever Paul referred to “praying in the Spirit,” he always meant “praying in tongues.”

The term “praying in the Spirit” does not mean just praying with greater fervency or deeper emotion or with more energy, as some would explain it to be. To pray in the Spirit means to pray in tongues, although this may also be accompanied by intensity, passion, fervor, emotion, energy, unintelligible groaning, and so on.



APPLICATION

God’s design is for every believer to be baptised in the Holy Spirit. He wants to give this magnificent gift to every believer, including children. God wants you to experience Him to the fullest. Now that you have asked Jesus into your heart and you are a child of God through Christ Jesus, take the next step to fullness in Him by seeking the fullness of the Holy Spirit! And in doing so, you will excel more than you could ever imagine in your prayer life, your life at school and when you go out, and minister to others.

Luke 11:9-13 mentions that the heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him? As a son/daughter, we are to ask the Father for the Holy Spirit. When we ask expectantly and without fear, we are told that we will receive the good gift—the Holy Spirit.

When you receive it something wonderful will happen to you. It will be Power! Power! Power! You will be endued with God’s power and God’s ability! Dare to believe for this truth and power to be displayed in your life, and you will be a witness to men that JESUS IS ALIVE!

For those of you who have been baptised with the Spirit, exercise your faith and begin to use the power you have been given to minister to others so that unbelievers will experience His presence and power, and put their trust in Him. Believers would desire to be baptised in the Spirit so that Christ can be glorified.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



THE HOLY SPIRIT

Fruit and Gifts of the Holy Spirit



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain to children the need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit.
- To introduce the children to the nine gifts of the Spirit.



MEMORY VERSE

Galatians 5:22-24: "... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such there is no law. Those who belong to Christ's have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires."



RECAP

- What did we learn last week?
- Recite last week's Memory Verse.

Materials Needed:

- Write two sets of the gifts of the Spirit in different strips of paper and put each set in a box. Wrap both the boxes with a few

layers of newspaper and over that with a gift wrap. When you are wrapping the box with newspaper and the gift wrap, use a lot of tape because the children should find it difficult to open the box.

- 2 pair of Mittens (the puffier the mitten, the better)
- Stop watch



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learnt about the fullness of God's power that we receive when we are baptised in the Spirit. This power enables the person to witness, minister, edify (build up), exhort (encourage) others, speak in tongues, perform miracles and manifest the gifts of the Spirit.

Being baptised with the Holy Spirit, however, is not just a once-for-all experience. Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:18, we need to be continually and constantly be filled with the Spirit. In our lesson today, we will learn how to be continually and constantly filled with the Spirit and how to manifest the gifts of the Spirit.



TEACHING CONTENT

Filled with the Spirit

Why did Paul write that we should continually be filled with the Spirit?

Many believers feel a sense of spiritual contentment when they are born again and are baptised with the Spirit. There is a great danger in this kind of contentment. Why? When we accept Christ, our human spirit is being made new, but it is our responsibility to daily renew our mind, will, emotions and put to death the desires of our flesh. When we don't renew our soul (body, will and emotions) and minds, we continue manifesting our old sinful habits—pride, hate, anger, rebellion, jealousy, wrong thoughts, wrong actions and desires. When we continue sinning, the Holy Spirit in us is grieved.

To make sure that our mind, emotions and fleshly desires are being renewed daily, Paul tells us that we must continually be filled with the Spirit. The phrase "filled

with the Spirit” means to be absolutely saturated with, and under the control and influence of the Holy Spirit. This happens when we totally submit (yielded or surrendered) to His Lordship and daily abide in Christ. In Galatians 5:22-23, Paul gives us three commands on how we can be constantly and continually filled with the Spirit.

Read Aloud:

Galatians 5:16-25 (NKJV): “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

Ask:

What are the three commands Paul gives us in the passage we just read?
Walking, living and led by the Spirit.

Walking, living and led by the Spirit is the same as to be filled with the Spirit, which means to be absolutely saturated with and, under the control and influence of the Holy Spirit.

The words “walking,” “living” and “led” is in progressive present tense which means “keep on continually walking, living and led by the Spirit. The wonderful thing is that we don’t have to walk, live and be led to follow the Spirit in our own strength. The Spirit in us will move and lead us to live in holiness and righteousness. We are simply to respond moment by moment, day by day walking and living by means of the power and direction of the Spirit. That is it—just to walk and live by the Spirit in an attitude of submission to the Holy Spirit.

How can we walk, live, be led and abide in the Spirit?

Firstly, reading the Word of God daily so as to know the mind of the Spirit and the will of the Spirit. Colossians 3:16, says, "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly." When the Word of God dwells in us richly, it dominates our thinking and action. As the Word moves through our heart and mind, it is by that that the Spirit of God directs our lives.

Secondly, spend time in prayer, communing with the living God and building an intimate relationship with the Spirit of God. As you feed on the Word and as you commune with God, you are in the position where the Spirit of God can move you to overcome the desires of your sinful nature and live according to the Spirit-filled nature.

When you submit and yield to walk, live and be led by the Spirit, He will manifest His fruit in your life. The Holy Spirit will also manifest the nine gifts of the Spirit through your life.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

As I had mentioned in the beginning of this class that when we are baptised in the Spirit, His power enables us to manifest the gifts of the Spirit. What are the gifts of the Spirit? You will discover the gifts of the Spirit when you unwrap the boxes on the table.



ATTENTION GETTER

Materials Needed:

- Write two sets of the Gifts of the Spirit in different strips of paper and put each set in a box. Wrap both the boxes with a few layers of newspaper and over that with the gift wrapping paper. Put a lot of tape, the idea is to ensure the children find it difficult to unwrap the gift wrap cover.
- 2 pair of Mittens (the puffier the mitten, the better)
- Stop watch

Instructions:

Divide the children in two groups. Place the box on a table (*a little away from where the children are standing*) in front of the two teams. Play this game like a relay where each child will have a chance to try and open the gift. Each child on each team will get a minute to try and unwrap the present (*they have to remove the tape and not tear the paper apart*) when wearing the mittens (*the puffier the mitten, the better*). As each child finishes their turn, he/she must give the mittens to the next person in line. The first team to have their present completely unwrapped (*with no scraps or tape*) is the winner.

(If the teams have not been able to open the box after each one gets a chance, you can declare the team who was able to unwrap most of the paper as the winner and continue with the learning.)

Ask:

Was it easy to open the gift box while wearing the mittens? (*Let the children respond*).

It was difficult. The gifts of the Spirit that God gives us does not come in a gift-wrapped box and it is not hard for us to open it like it was hard to open the gifts with mittens on. Look into your boxes and see what the gifts of the Spirit are. Let each child take two strips depending on the number of children in the team.

Even as you hold the strips of paper, I want you to quietly read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, where the gifts of the Spirit are recorded for us. (*After the children have read the passage, ask them the below questions*).

Ask:

How many gifts of the Spirit are there?

Nine

List the nine gifts of the Spirit. As we list the nine gifts of the Spirit, those holding the specified paper-strip can hold it up.

Word of Wisdom

Word of Knowledge

Gift of faith

Working of miracles

Gifts of healings

Prophecy

Discerning of spirits

Different kind of tongues

Interpretation of tongues

Who gives the gifts of the Spirit to believers?

The Holy Spirit gives the believer all the gifts, so that a believer can flow in all the nine gifts of the Spirit.

What is the main purpose of these gifts?

Paul did not say that the “gifts” of the Spirit are given to believers to own and operate as they wish, for their own personal, selfish reasons. They are given:

To instruct and edify the church

To convince unbelievers and

To glorify Jesus

Verse 7 says, “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”

What is the meaning of the manifestation of the gifts?

It means that the gifts are an expression of the Spirit. Operating in the gifts of the Spirit is the Holy Spirit expressing Himself through us to glorify Jesus.

How do these gifts operate in our lives?

Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the door into these gifts. We begin to operate in these gifts after we have been baptised with the Holy Spirit. When we are baptised with the Spirit, the Holy Spirit empowers us and we begin to release that power when we manifest the gifts. This is mentioned in Joel 2:28.

Read Aloud:

Joel 2:28: “And afterward, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.”

The nine gifts of the Spirit are very important to the Church today, because they are the weapons of our warfare against satan.

The nine gifts can be divided as:

Three Revelation gifts—Gifts that reveal something (“Power to Know”)

Word of Wisdom

Word of Knowledge

Discerning of spirits

Three Power gifts—Gifts that do something (“Power to Do”)

Gift of faith

Working of miracles

Gifts of healings

Three Vocal gifts—gifts that say something (“Power to Say”)

Prophecy

Different kind of tongues

Interpretation of tongues

All the gifts, except different kind of tongues and interpretation of tongues, were manifested in Old Testament times and in Jesus. All these gifts are supernatural gifts which mean these gifts cannot be produced through our own ability or knowledge; they are given to us by God.

How do we flow in the gifts of the Spirit?

Stir up the gift of God in you: Paul, in his writing to Timothy exhorts him in 1 Timothy 4:14 not to neglect the gift that is in him. In 2 Timothy 1:6, Paul reminds him to stir up the gift of God. The word neglect in the Greek is ‘ameleo’ which means to be careless of, to make light of, to be negligent and to not have regard. Paul is instructing Timothy not to become careless, negligent or make light of the spiritual gift that is in him.

Spiritual gifts need to be stirred up; otherwise, they diminish in their expression through neglect or fear. The more you exercise and flow in certain gifts, the easier it becomes to have more of those manifestations of the Spirit. Similarly, when we are baptised in the Spirit, we too need to step out in faith and use the opportunities God gives us to manifest the gifts of the Spirit in us.

Pray in the Spirit: Prayer helps strengthen the lines of communication with the Spirit and makes us more sensitive to Him. Prayer also helps quieten the noise of

our own emotions, feelings, reason, opinions and the flesh. Praying in tongues or praying in the Spirit is a basic foundation gift for all other gifts. When we pray in the Spirit, our spirits are praying and we begin to engage with the Holy Spirit. We must also combine fasting with our prayer.

Faith: Even though the gifts of the Spirit are a gift from God and we receive and operate it by faith. Doubt, human reasoning and fear blocks the flow of the gift and stops us from manifesting the gifts. We can overcome it only when we step out in faith, and do what God has asked us to do and expect God to act.

Paul, in the book of Galatians, makes it very clear that the gift of the Spirit and miracles are not experienced by our fleshly efforts, but rather through faith. He asks the following self-answering questions in Galatians 3:2, 5: "I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? Does God give you His Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?"

Yield to what the Spirit is saying or doing: The Bible instructs us in 1 Thessalonians 5:19, 20 not to quench the Spirit. The word 'quench' literally means 'to extinguish.' When the Holy Spirit is lighting a fire in your spirit prompting you to say or do something, do not put it out. Do not suppress it. Instead, we must step out on what the Spirit is prompting us to do and act on it. The more we obey His promptings, the more likely He is to prompt us in the future.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

Video Presentation

Video: Power of Pentecost

Duration: 5 minutes and 7 seconds

How do I walk in the Spirit and bear fruit?

Walking in the Spirit is yielding and being obedient to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not a force or a feeling or goose bumps or speaking in tongues. All these may accompany the Holy Spirit as external manifestations. But He is a lifestyle: more than a feeling. You begin by taking the Holy Spirit as your best friend, learning to talk to Him, training yourself to listen for His voice as He will speak back to you. As you grow deeper in your relationship with the Holy Spirit and walk intimately with Him you will see the fruit of the Spirit in abundance in your life.

What is the difference between the fruit of the Spirit and Gifts of the Spirit? Are both important? Discuss in short their roles in the life of a believer

As you follow God and seek to “walk in the Spirit”, being obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit, you will see “fruit” being produced in your life. That fruit (love, joy, peace, etc.) is not produced by you but rather by the Holy Spirit IN you. These fruits represent who God is. They are traits of His personality and He wants you to have those same traits!

The spiritual gifts are the work of the same Spirit and He gives them as He determines (1 Corinthians 12:11). The spiritual gifts are signs, which the Lord performs on the earth (Acts 2:17-19). They are evidence that the Holy Spirit has come upon us and given us power to be His witnesses (Ac 1:8). They are evidence that we have been filled with the Spirit (Acts 2:4).

The fruit of the Spirit has to do with spiritual character. The gifts of the Spirit have to do with spiritual capabilities in service of the Lord. Both are to bring life!

The fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit are available to all Christians who surrender their ways for His.

Can we walk and live in the Spirit by our own strength and effort?

It is certainly impossible to live the life that God wants for us without the Holy Spirit indwelling in us.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 says: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my

Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.” When the Spirit indwells us, He causes us to live the life God wants us to live.

Which two commandments do you think are most important to living the Spirit-filled life? Why? To find the answer, read Matthew 22:36-40.

The first commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and the second one is to love our neighbor as ourselves. Only when we love God will we willingly yield and submit ourselves to God. Only then will we desire to read His Word and pray, and do what the Spirit wants and desires. When we love God, we will love others irrespective of whether they love us or not. This way we manifest the likeness of Christ to others and Jesus will be glorified in our lives.

Some people say they are born-again, but their lives don’t show the Fruit of the Spirit. Why? Read Galatians 5:16-18.

After a person is born-again, they must choose daily whether to follow their own fleshly desires or follow what the Spirit desires. There is a constant battle happening within us, with the flesh wanting us to do one thing while the Spirit asks us to do another. In the end, we obey either our fleshly nature or the Spirit-filled nature, and the one that we obey prevails. So if we want our spiritual nature to win the battle, so that we are continually obeying God, we must choose to do what the Spirit tells us. When we are constantly obeying what the Spirit wants us to do, we begin to bear the Fruit of the Spirit which becomes evident in our lives.

Look up the passages given below to find out the areas we need to walk in the Spirit:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Ephesians 4:2, 3 | – | Walk in humility, gentleness, patience and love |
| Romans 13:13 | – | Walk in purity |
| 2 Corinthians 5:7 | – | Walk in faith |
| Ephesians 2:10 | – | Walk in good works |
| Ephesians 4:17 | – | Walk differently than the world |
| 2 Thessalonians 3:6 | – | Walk separated from sin |
| Ephesians 5:2, 3 | – | Walk in love |
| Ephesians 5:8, 9 | – | Walk in light |
| Ephesians 5:15, 16 | – | Walk in wisdom |
| 3 John 3, 4 | – | Walk in truth |

We learnt that when we don't live in a way that pleases God, we grieve the Spirit of God. What are some ways we can grieve or hurt the Holy Spirit? Look up the references below to find the answer.

Ephesians 4:30—We can grieve the Spirit, by desiring the things of the world and flesh, and also by behaving contrary to the Spirit-filled nature—reacting in anger, holding on to hate, bitterness and unforgiveness, etc.

1 Thessalonians 5:19—We can quench the Spirit and put out the fire of the Spirit by refusing to pray, and not using the gifts of the Spirit and flowing in the anointing of the Spirit.

Hebrews 10:29—We can insult the Spirit by continuing to deliberately sin, even after we are born-again and know the truth.

Acts 7:51—Resisting the Spirit by doing things according to our own desires and will. Wilful disobedience after we receive clear and definite guidance from the Holy Spirit.

Psalms 106:33—Rebelling against the Spirit by refusing to do what God's Spirit expressly commands.

List the works of the flesh and the Fruit of the Spirit.

WORKS OF THE FLESH	FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
Sexual Immorality—Can be private, hidden sin. E.g., Watching sex movies or material on internet	Love
Impurity—Has to do with a mind that is controlled by dirty thoughts.	Joy
Debauchery—Extreme sexual indulgence	Peace
Idolatry—Is the act of worshipping other gods. It can be anything from cars, sports, a person or the latest high-tech gadget.	Patience
Witchcraft	Kindness
Hatred	Goodness
Discord	Faithfulness

Jealousy	Gentleness
Fits of Rage	Self-control
Selfish Ambition	
Dissensions—Causing division among friends and family members	
Factions—Causing divisions	
Envy—Wanting what others have	
Drunkenness	
Orgies—Sexual indulgence and drunken revelry, often in a party scene	



APPLICATION

1. Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior? If yes, what are you doing daily to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
2. Are you reading the Word daily?
3. Are your prayers just routine prayers or are you spending time talking and listening to God daily, during your prayer time.
4. Are you living according to your own desires and will?
5. Are your choices according to the desires of the world and flesh?
6. Have you been living a life of continual deliberate sin in some areas of your life, even after knowing it is wrong?
7. Have you been obeying God in every area of your life?

If your answer is mostly 'Yes' to questions 3–7, then you know that you have been feeding and gratifying (satisfying) the desires of your flesh. Thus, you have been quenching the power and ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life.

The Holy Spirit is real, and should not be ignored. He is always speaking to us through our conscience, often called our "intuition" or a "gut" feeling. No matter what your level of spiritual development, make a quality decision to yield to the

Holy Spirit. Choose to share in His work of sanctification by yielding to Him. Choose to obey His commands and pray for strength to put to death the desires of the flesh.

When we walk, live and are led by His Spirit, He will produce His fruit and manifest His gifts in our lives. Thus His glory is manifested through us and others will know Him as God. Are you willing?

(Lead the children in a prayer of commitment.)

Write down what you will do to put to death the desires of the flesh and how you will live according to the Spirit.

Note to the Facilitator:

Before the children leave, ask them to take a look at the Take Home Activity in their student workbook. Encourage them to read the passages given from Acts chapters 27, 10 and 5.

Say:

Every day this week, read the following Scripture passages which talk about the infilling power of the Holy Spirit. We will discuss these passages next week.

- | | | |
|------------------|---|---------------|
| Monday | : | Acts 27:1-11 |
| Tuesday | : | Acts 27:13-26 |
| Wednesday | : | Acts 27:27-44 |
| Thursday | : | Acts 10:1-23 |
| Friday | : | Acts 10:24-48 |
| Saturday | : | Acts 5:1-11 |



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 5

The Revelation Gifts of the Spirit



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn the three gifts of the Holy Spirit which are associated with revelation.
- Children will learn how these three gifts of revelations operate through believers.
- To encourage children to value, share and receive Spirit-given wisdom, knowledge and discernment.



RECAP

- What did we learn last week?
- Recite last week's Memory Verse.



MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 11:2: The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD ...”

Material Needed:

- Laptop (to play video)

Note to the Facilitator:

The lesson today has five incidents from the Book of Acts which the children were asked (as Take Home Activity) to read every day of the week. As part of your preparation, read the incidents given in the Bible and during class-time conduct a small quiz to refresh the children's memory. After the quiz, summarise the passage so it may benefit children who have not read. This will make your class more interesting. Spend very little time talking about the incidents, focus more on the learning.

**INTRODUCTION**

Last week, we learnt that the Holy Spirit gives the nine gifts to all believers for the edification, instruction and building of the Church and to convince unbelievers. The nine gifts are an expression of the Spirit. When we operate in the gifts of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit expresses Himself through us to glorify Jesus.

God's desire is for us to experience the gifts of the Spirit. He wants us to understand their purpose and be effective in their use. Majority of people are ignorant of what they are, why they are given and how they can be used. Today, we'll learn about the three revelation gifts. Can you tell me what the three revelation gifts are?

Three Revelation Gifts which spring from God's omniscient (all knowing) love are:

Word of Wisdom—gives us God's direction.

Word of Knowledge—gives us God's instruction.

Discerning of Spirits— Helps us determine whether or not a message, person, or event is truly from God.

"Revelation" means "the making known of information." God uses these three revelation gifts to reveal things supernaturally that we could not know through our natural senses.



TEACHING CONTENT

I. Word of Wisdom

The gift of the word of wisdom is a supernatural revelation by the Spirit of God concerning the divine purpose in the mind and will of God, regarding the future of a believer or church. The word of wisdom may be given to solve a problem, make a decision in leadership, and help in instruction and so on. There is no restriction or limitation on the specific area (ministry, business, science, cooking, relationships and so on) in which the Spirit of God is to impart a word of wisdom. It is called a word of wisdom because even though God is Omniscient and all-knowing, He reveals just a word or part of what He knows to us.

Example from the Early Church which illustrates the operation of the gift of the Word of Wisdom:

In Acts 27, we read that when Paul was sailing to Rome, he received a word of wisdom in which he was warned of a shipwreck. Paul warned the men who were sailing with him, "Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous, and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also" (Acts 27:10). The men did not heed his warning and they were finally caught in a terrible storm. All the people on the ship were frightened that they would all die in the storm. Paul encouraged them saying, "Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you. So keep up your courage men for I have faith in God ... nevertheless we must run aground on some island.'"

(Ask the children what was the Word of Wisdom that Paul received.)

Turn to lesson 7 in your workbook and read the incident narrated by Dr. DGS Dhinakaran which illustrates the operation of the gift of Word of Wisdom. Read it quietly for yourself.

"A young man and his wife began a small ministry in Bombay. On one occasion when I met them, they complained that there was no progress in their ministry; I prayed earnestly to God about this. The Lord gave me a word of wisdom.

Next day, I called them and said: ‘Conduct a healing service every month for the sick, when you should anoint them with oil and pray for them. Advertise the healing service on a large scale. People will come thronging to your church through the healing service and your church will expand. This is the guidance from God.’ After listening to me, the young man raised a question: ‘We will certainly do what you have instructed us to do; but if the people do not get healed, when I anoint them with oil and pray, it will only create harmful results. Then what should I do?’ I replied, ‘Young brother, don’t worry! The Lord will definitely perform miracles.’

After several months, I met a relative of this young man and made enquiries of the ministry of the couple. He said, “Brother, it is not just one church now, they have started a branch church too; all their churches are overflowing with people. God is working mighty miracles through them. Once, even a dead child was resurrected.” I was delighted.

We learn from the above incident that when the couple received a word of wisdom and acted on it; it enabled them to not only see their church overflow with people but also to begin other branch churches as well.

In these two examples, we see that the word of wisdom given was used to solve a problem, instruct, make a decision and encourage people.

From the above examples it is clear that the gift of the word of wisdom is not:

- The wisdom that God gives those who ask Him, to deal with the affairs of their daily life.
- It is not wisdom gained through knowledge by reading God’s Word.

We receive the Word of Wisdom in various forms:

- An inner voice.
- Through a vision when awake.
- Through a dream when asleep.
- Through other persons operating in the gifts of tongues and interpretation of tongues, or the gift of prophesy. We’ll learn about the operation of these gifts in the next class.

II. Word of Knowledge

Word of Knowledge: Is a supernatural revelation by the Spirit of God of facts in the mind of God concerning people, places or things.

Example from the Early Church which illustrates the operation of the gift of the word of knowledge:

In Acts 10:1-8, we read that in a vision the angel of God told Cornelius to send his men to Joppa and bring a man named Simon, called Peter who was staying with Simon the tanner whose house was by the sea.

What Cornelius received was a word of knowledge—God gave him specific details of the person, place and exact location where Peter was living. Cornelius acted on the word of knowledge and sent men to get Peter to his house. When Peter preached the gospel to Cornelius, relatives and friends who had gathered in his house, they were all saved and all of them were baptised with the Holy Spirit.

Let's watch this video which illustrates the operation of the gift of word of knowledge.

Video Presentation

Summary: Operation of the gift of word of knowledge, word of wisdom and Healing.

Duration: From the beginning to 3 minutes 13 seconds

The man in the yellow shirt meets these two strangers on the street and through the gift of the word of knowledge and word of wisdom is able to tell them about things about their life and pray for their healing.

The word of knowledge is not:

- Information that could be known naturally. By naturally I mean our own intellectual knowledge. It is not knowledge that we have gained apart from what the Holy Spirit reveals to us.
- It is also not having a deep knowledge of the Bible which comes through studying the Word of God. Yes! God helps us understand His Word; but this is not the same as the supernatural gift of the word of Knowledge.

- It is also not the knowledge that we gain by walking close with God. As we walk closely with God, certainly our knowledge of Him increases; but this is different from the supernatural gift of the word of knowledge.

When the Word of Knowledge is in operation:

- We may see something in the spirit around a person or place.
- We may hear a word or phrase in our inner man.
- We may feel in our own body a manifestation of something concerning another person.
- When we receive a word of knowledge, it does not mean we are to act on it immediately. Often we need to wait for a word of wisdom to tell us how we are to proceed. At times the word of knowledge and wisdom will operate simultaneously and allow immediate fulfillment of God's purpose.
- A word of knowledge may be used by God to confront another person with sin in their lives or some wrong situation they are in. Such words must be given in love, in private.

III. The Gift of Discerning of spirits

Discerning of spirits: Is the supernatural revelation into the realm of spirits—seeing and hearing in the spirit realm.

When we operate in the gift of distinguishing between spirits:

- We can test spirits behind speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues or prophecy.
- When ministering healing or deliverance to people, the Holy Spirit helps us see if an evil spirit is affecting a certain situation or is causing a person's behavior or sickness, so we can pray and minister correctly.
- The plans of satan can be discerned.
- When we face a situation or circumstance, we will be able to identify in a given circumstance what spirit (or spirits) surrounds us, quiet clearly and precisely.
- We can also detect false revelation or false prophets as mentioned in 1 John 4:1: "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see

whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

- We may also discern the likeness of God, e.g., Moses whom God enabled to look into the spiritual realm. God hid Moses in the cleft of a rock, and covered the opening with His hand while His glory passed by. Then He removed His hand for a moment and allowed Moses to catch a glimpse of His back.

All through the Bible there are people who saw the likeness of God in visions. No one has seen the risen Christ, but through this supernatural gift of discerning of spirits, people have seen Jesus in the spirit realm.

Example from the Early Church which illustrates the operation of the gift of the discerning of Spirits:

In Acts 13:6-12, we read that when Saul and Barnabas came to Paphos, the proconsul wanted to hear the Word of God and so he sent for Barnabas and Saul. Elymas the sorcerer opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. Then Saul (Paul) filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, “You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! ... You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun” (Acts 13:10, 11). Immediately darkness came over Elymas and he asked someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

Paul through the gift of discerning of spirits was able to discern that Elymas did not have a right spirit.

Let’s watch a video which will help us understand better about the operation of the gift of Discerning of spirits.

Video Presentation

Video: Gift of discernment of spirits

Duration: From the beginning to 6 minutes 23 seconds



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

Is there a difference between a word of wisdom and a word of knowledge?

Yes! The revelation in the word of knowledge is concerning something that has happened in the present or the past. The word of wisdom always speaks of the future (refer back to the examples so the children understand). It also deals with understanding how those facts should be acted upon according to God's best plan.

Do the gifts of the Spirit operate together or separately?

The gifts operate together. The word of wisdom and the word of knowledge operate closely together. The word of wisdom will often reveal to us how to apply knowledge revealed through a word of knowledge, or help us distinguish between spirits.

From the examples of the Early Church we looked at today, can you suggest one example where we find the gift of the word of wisdom, word of knowledge and discerning of spirits in operation.

In Acts chapter 10:

Word of Knowledge—God gave Cornelius specific details of the person, place and exact location where Peter was living.

Word of Wisdom—As Peter was thinking of the vision, he saw the Spirit telling him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them" (Acts 10: 19, 20). Peter knew that it was against the law for Jews to associate with Gentiles or visit them. In the vision he had seen before he came to Cornelius' house, God showed him not to call any man impure or unclean. So he came to Cornelius' house without any hesitation.

Discerning of spirits: Peter had been taught that associating with Gentiles would make a Jew unclean and unworthy to draw near to God (v. 28). Due to the vision

(vv. 10-16) and message (vv. 18-19) that Peter had already received, he had some indication that God was behind the invitation from Cornelius. In verses 34-35, Peter states that he realised that Cornelius' invitation was from God, indicating that the Holy Spirit enabled him to discern the source.

Why is the operation of the gift of discerning spirits important for us?

God does not want us to be ignorant of the gift of discerning of the spirits. He does not want us to be ignorant of the spirit of a person, especially when it involves people whom we make friends with or associate with. This gift will help us know and discern the spirit that motivates a person, whether it is the truth or error. We cannot know a person's spirit until God shows this to us. If God does not want us to be involved with someone, the Holy Spirit will warn us in our spirit.

The first place that satan attacks us is in our minds; the discerning of spirits can reveal satan's attacks and can bring deliverance and blessing to us. Satan often plays upon our limitations, and tells us "You will never do any good," or "You will never do anything for Jesus," or "You will never learn the Scriptures." Sometimes when we have given in to a seducing spirit and are living in sin, our minds and thought lives are perverted and our doctrines corrupted as a result. God does not want us to be harmed or deceived by the lies of the devil. He wants us to know the truth, as it is the truth that sets us free from the devil's lies and power.

Video Presentation

Video: Testimony

Duration: 9 minutes

How do we start to operate in the revelation gifts?

It's important firstly that we build a personal relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit in prayer and the studying of the Word of God. It is through taking time to be with God that we learn to recognise His voice and when He is speaking to us. If we do not know His voice we will never be able to respond to Him or exercise the gifts.

We need to train ourselves to hear God's voice and to discern His leading for our daily life. The Holy Spirit won't speak to you in a sensational, spectacular way! We need to get into the habit of listening closely to our spirit and drawing closer to God

in order to hear Him better. Earnestly desire and ask God to operate in these gifts. Jesus promised that all who ask will receive. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a word of knowledge, a word of Wisdom and how to discern things and people etc.

When you ask expect the Spirit to operate through you. When He reveals something to you say or do it no matter how foolish it may seem to you.



APPLICATION

Isn't it wonderful to know that we do not have to go through life lost and uncertain about our present or future? The Holy Spirit is willing to instruct, direct and help us discern if people, sickness, problems in our lives are from God or the devil.

The word of wisdom and knowledge that we can receive from the Holy Spirit can literally cover an infinite number of things in our daily lives. They can cover anything from something very small such as where we may have misplaced our book, to giving us life-saving knowledge on how to solve a problem at home or school.

You can discern if the intentions of your friends, extended family members are godly or not, by discerning the spirit that is in operation through them. God is willing to give you a word of wisdom or knowledge to help someone else in your family, friends at school, church or who you pass by on the street. There is so much the Holy Spirit wants to reveal to bless our lives and the lives of others around us, if only we are sensitive to the Holy Spirit and willing to listen to Him, and do what He is asking us to do however foolish it may seem to us.

Most of you, prepare a day before you go to school by packing your bag with books according to the time table. You also complete your homework for the subjects for the next day. When we do some much to prepare to acquire worldly knowledge, should we not also prepare to receive God's wisdom and knowledge? This word of wisdom and knowledge is not just in spiritual matters but even in matters related to our studies and every detail of our lives.

Just like you prepare to go to school, so also, before you come to church prepare yourself every day of the week by reading the Word and praying. Maybe God will use some verse you read during the week as an answer for your problem or as

a solution for someone else's problem. Once you are tuned to hearing from God throughout the week, you will not find it difficult to discern when God is saying something to you. Come desiring to hear from God!

How are you going to prepare yourself to receive revelation from God?



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Communication Gifts of the Spirit



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn the three gifts of the Holy Spirit associated with communicating God's message.
- Children will learn how these three gifts operate through believers.
- Understand the purpose of the gift of tongues and its use in the church.
- Learn the benefits of speaking in tongues
- Clear up any misconceptions about the gift of tongues
- To encourage proper use of the gift.



RECAP

- What did we learn last week?
- Recite last week's Memory Verse.



MEMORY VERSE

Romans 8:26, 27: "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the

Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."

Material Needed:

- Laptop (to play video)



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we looked at the three gifts of the Spirit associated with the revelation that spring from God's omniscient (all knowing) love. Today, we will look at the next three gifts of the Spirit associated with God edifying and inspiring us, which spring from God's omnipresent (present everywhere) love for His people.

What are the three vocal gifts?

Different kind of tongues—the ability to speak in a foreign language that you do not have knowledge of, in order to communicate with someone who speaks that language.

Interpretation of tongues—translate the tongues spoken in a language that others understand.

Prophecy—enables us to proclaim a message from God.



TEACHING CONTENT

I. The Gift of Speaking in Different Kinds of Tongues

As studied in Lesson 3, speaking in tongues are the initial physical evidence that a person is baptised with the Holy Spirit. The person uses this gift to speak in tongues during their personal prayer time, or in prayer meetings and when worshipping God. This is done for their own personal spiritual growth. At these times, they are not manifesting the gift of speaking in different kind of tongues as mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12.

Another distinction is that when a person speaks in tongues, the Holy Spirit through a man's spirit speaks to God. So it is man speaking to God. Whereas, when the gift of speaking in different kind of tongues is in operation, God through a person gives a message to an individual or to the church.

When God desires to give a message to the church in tongues, the person through whom He desires to give that message will experience an anointing, sense the prompting and urging of the Holy Spirit from deep within his spirit to give a message in tongues. They should wait until the correct time, remember, the Holy Spirit would never interrupt Himself. The utterances should not be shouted, but spoken clearly without excessive emotion.

To understand what I just said I'll narrate an incident from the book "Endued with Power," where the writer Norvel Hayes narrates his own personal incident. Norvel had just finished speaking at a night service, when God asked him to walk and pray in the Spirit while he was still on the stage. After praying for a long time, he suddenly felt God's power come upon him. He heard a woman sobbing and weeping in the audience. The woman told him that her daughter, still in her twenties was working overseas as a missionary among tribals. She contracted a rare disease and was dying, and there was no way to bring her back home.

The woman in the audience had learnt the tribal language of the people her daughter ministered to. It turned out that Norvel had been speaking in the same tribal language. She interpreted what Novel prayed. She said, "You began to speak out the wonderful works of God and the healing power of God for my daughter. When the note of victory came, God's healing power swept over where she was, shot down through her body, and healed her. Glory be to God! Thank You, Jesus!

From this incident, we learn that God led Norvel to speak in a language which was unknown to him but known to the woman in the audience. What he said brought this great comfort and consolation to her that her dying daughter was healed by God.

We see that whenever God leads and anoints a person to speak in tongues in a church set-up, it has to be interpreted. Gifts of speaking in tongues and interpretation of that tongue flow together.

II. The Gift of the Interpretation of Tongues

The gift of the interpretation of tongues is the supernatural expounding or explanation of the message given in tongues. The interpretation is given by the Holy Spirit. The main purpose of this gift is to make the gift of tongues intelligible to the hearers so that the church may know what has been said and can be edified.

Interpretation is not a literal, word-for-word translation and does not only bring out the meaning but the underlying ideas and explanations. The interpretation for the tongues is given by the Holy Spirit either to the person who God prompted to speak in tongues or to some one else in the audience like in the example we just heard.

There are many reasons why God included tongues as one of the nine gifts of the Spirit. We will look at some benefits of speaking in tongues.

Benefits of Speaking in Tongues

A. Communicate God's Message to Unbelievers

On Pentecost, when the disciples began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance, the large crowd of Jews was amazed at how the men who were Galileans were perfectly speaking in languages unknown to them. The Jews in the crowd asked one another, 'What does this mean?' Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine.' When Peter heard this, he preached to the crowd. At the end of his message, about 3000 people accepted Jesus and were baptised. The 120 people speaking in tongues led to about 3000 unbelievers hear the gospel message, believing and being baptised in the Holy Spirit.

When Peter preached the gospel to the people gathered in Cornelius' house, all of them were baptised in the Spirit and spoke in tongues. Peter said to the astonished Jews, "... they have received the Holy Spirit just as we have" (Acts 10:47). In this case, we see that speaking in tongues was used to confirm to the Jews that the Gentiles were worthy of salvation and should therefore receive the Gospel as well.

B. Speak Mysteries to God

When we pray in tongues, we speak mysteries. Mysteries are things unknown to the human mind, but known to the Spirit of God. These could be things that have happened in the past, happenings in the present, or things that will happen in the

future which we know nothing about as yet. There could be things about us or about someone else that need to be prayed about, but our mind is not aware of these things. When we pray in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit knows all things and releases a prayer (intercession) through us, for that very thing.

For instance, in the coming weeks, a person that I know may face something very important, but I will probably have no idea about this. However, when I pray in tongues, the Holy Spirit can lift up a prayer through me for that person's need, something I have no knowledge of, and often I may not even be aware of having prayed for that need. But the 'job' is done!

First, we pray these mysteries so that God's will or purpose can be done here on earth, as it is in heaven. God has purposed things for us and we pray them here on earth by the help of the Holy Spirit when we pray in tongues. Second, we pray these mysteries, so that these can be revealed to us by the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10). Our spirit gains understanding of the wisdom, plans, purposes and deep things of God.

C. Helps Us to Pray According to God's Will

Romans 8:26, 27 says, "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."

We learnt that the Holy Spirit is our intercessor; He helps us pray according to the perfect will of God—to pray for things as they should be prayed for. When the Spirit directs us to pray, our prayers are no longer selfish prayers.

When we are praying in the Spirit—in tongues—our natural minds know nothing of what we are saying. But God who looks into our hearts understands everything that is being expressed in this intercession. All that we say in the prayer is according to the will of God.

A true life example: Two days before some meetings, Kenneth Hagin went to the home of Norvel, his friend, to rest. During his stay, his wife called to inform that a pastor-friend had suffered a major heart attack and would probably not survive. On

hearing this, Kenneth and Norvel fell on their knees and prayed. First, they broke the power of the devil over the pastor's body. Second, they asked God to heal him. And third, they prayed in tongues. After some time Kenneth started groaning in the spirit, in his prayer. After his prayer, he was able to assure Norvel that God had told him that they had prayed correctly, and that the pastor would not die.

D. Helps Us Overcome the Weaknesses of the Flesh

The verse we just read in Romans, says that the Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. The word 'help' means "to take a hold of together with you against your weaknesses." So the Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses because we do not know what we should pray for, as we ought to. Example, if we have a weakness in us that we do not know how to overcome, we can pray in tongues. As we continue to do this, the Holy Spirit will help us conquer it.

A true life example: A minister's 12-year old daughter lost her temper and was talking very rudely and hatefully to her mother. A visiting evangelist overheard and when the girl looked up and saw him, knowing that he had witnessed her tantrum, she was embarrassed and broke into tears. The evangelist asked her if she was filled with the Spirit. When she replied that she was, he reminded her that the Holy Spirit was in her.

They prayed together and she asked the Lord's forgiveness. While praying she began to worship God in tongues. When they were finished praying, the evangelist said to her, "There is one secret that will help you curb your temper. If you will pray and worship God every day in tongues, it will help you to be conscious of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. If you will remember that He is in you; you won't act that way." Some years later, when that evangelist returned to preach at that church, the pastor's daughter told him, "I have never forgotten what you said. Every day for the past few years I have prayed and worshipped God in tongues, and I never lost my temper again."

E. Edifies Us

1 Corinthians 14:4 says: "He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church."

We see that speaking in tongues is not for mental or physical edification, but for spiritual edification.

1 Corinthians 14:14 says, “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.”

1 Corinthians 14:2 says, “For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.”

One of the ways God has given for us to be strengthened in our spirits is through praying in tongues.

F. Helps Stir Up the Gifts of God Within Us

When we pray in tongues, we can easily stir up the other gifts that God has placed in our lives. As we pray in tongues, we become more sensitive to the Spirit of God, and we are strengthened in our inner man. We are able to overcome fear and other restraints that hinder us from using the spiritual gifts.

Let’s watch this video:

Video Presentation

Video: The Power of Speaking in Tongues – Testimony and experiences

Duration: From the beginning to 6 minutes and 45 seconds

III. The Gift of Prophecy

Prophecy is a supernatural gift of God which is a direct message from God to a particular person or group of people. The message strengthens, encourages, and comforts the body of Christ as Paul states in 1 Corinthians 14:3, “But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.”

Strengthening or edifies means to build up. As Paul states in 1 Corinthians 14:4, ‘He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

The word translated ‘encourage’ is a Greek word meaning ‘a calling nearer to God.’ The dictionary says ‘encourage’ is to give courage, to inspire with hope or to give boldness.

The word translated 'comfort' is a Greek word meaning speaking closely to anyone and denotes consolation.'

All those who prophecy or have the gift of prophecy are not prophets. However, all Prophets (called to the Prophetic Office) will have the gift of prophecy. Example in Acts 21:9 it says, "He (Philip) had four unmarried daughters who prophesied." According to this verse, Philip the evangelist had four daughters who had the gift of prophecy and prophesied. But the Scripture does not call them prophets since they only operated in the gift of prophecy. In the next verse, we see that Agabus is called a prophet. All believers who have the gift of prophecy can prophesy, but only those are called to the Prophetic Office are prophets.

How do we hear or receive what God is speaking to us?

When we are born again, our human spirit receives the life and nature of God. The Holy Spirit comes and dwells in our spirits—this is where He communicates to our spirit. It is quite clear from Scripture that the spirit has senses, similar to the five physical senses (feel, see, hear, taste and smell) of the human body. Let us see how the Holy Spirit communicates through our five senses.

A. Feelings

When the Holy Spirit communicates through our senses, we can have feelings of joy, quietness, peace, restlessness, uneasiness, a stirring or motivation to action, a feeling of tightness or discomfort, bitterness or anger, weighty feeling in our spirit. These feelings can come and go as a flash or can continue for a period of time in our spirits. With each feeling, there is actually a message that the Holy Spirit is communicating to us. A feeling of peace indicates all is well. A stirring in your spirit is a call to action, to do something about the situation. A feeling of tightness or uneasiness is a warning not to go or do something and that some danger is near. A feeling of anger is usually again a call to action. A weighty feeling is usually an indication of His presence over you, the anointing coming over you and so on.

B. Seeing

When the Holy Spirit communicates thorough our sight, we will see pictures and images that come up in our spirits and over into our minds. The pictures we see

are essentially a basic form of spiritual vision. Sometimes, we see pictures as in a movie, which is a sequence of pictures where things are happening. We can also see pictures when in a trance, or when we are asleep through dreams or visions in the night. There are times when it seems like our spirit-eyes are seeing something in the spirit realm—what is happening inside the spirit of another person or what is happening in the spirit world. And then there is something that could happen, but is rather rare, which is to have an out-of-body experience where our spirits travels on a sightseeing tour. The most common experience for most of us is pictures and images that we see. We need to accurately interpret the meaning of the pictures and derive the message that God is conveying to us through them.

Let us look at some Scriptural examples given in your student workbook:

i. Pictures

Amos 8:1,2: “This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me: a basket of ripe fruit. ‘What do you see, Amos?’ he asked. ‘A basket of ripe fruit’... Then the LORD said to me, ‘The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.’”

ii. Visions

Daniel 8:2-4: “In my vision I saw myself in the citadel of Susa ... I looked up, there before me was a ram with two horns, standing beside the canal ... I watched the ram as he charged toward the west and the north and the south.”

iii. Trance

Acts 10:9-17: “... Peter went up on the roof to pray ... he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. In contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air. Then a voice told him, ‘Get up, Peter, kill and eat.’ ‘Surely not, Lord!’ Peter replied, ‘I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.’ This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.”

iv. Seeing in the spirit realm

Numbers 22:31: “Then the LORD opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown.”

v. Out-of-body

Ezekiel 37:1, 2: "The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them ..."

C. Hearing

When we 'hear' in the spirit, we normally do not hear sound but rather receive a word, words, sentences or paragraph that is supernaturally imparted to the spirit-man. Sometimes it can come as a flash of information, suddenly coming into our spirits. Sometimes what we 'hear' just comes as a supernatural understanding where we just know. Two scriptural examples of Hearing from the Spirit:

i. Sentence

Acts 8:29: The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

ii. Sentences

Acts 10:19, 20: "While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."

D. The spirit-sense of taste and touch

We know that the spirit-man is capable of taste and touch as well. The Bible tells us, "Taste and see that the LORD is good ..." (Psalm 34:8). Ezekiel describes his spiritual experience of eating a scroll and tasting it. Then he said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you ... So I ate, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth." (Ezekiel 3:3). This was indeed a spiritual experience where he could taste something in the spirit.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul says to one is given the word of wisdom, to another the word of knowledge, to another faith, to another ... and so on. Based on this verse, people say that a believer can manifest just one gift, is this true? When we closely study 1 Corinthians chapter 12 to 14, we will come to understand that the gifts of the Spirit belong to the Holy Spirit. He can manifest all nine of the gifts through all believers. Therefore, every believer can manifest all nine of the gifts of the Spirit, in different situations at different points in time, as the Spirit manifests Himself.

1 Corinthians 12:11, says “All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one just as he determines.” How do we understand this verse in the light of the above answer?

This verse must be understood in the context of when the church comes together at a particular time. In that context, in a particular meeting when they are gathered together, different gifts are distributed by the Spirit to different people. In a subsequent meeting, the distribution may be different, that is, one who had words of knowledge in one meeting, may manifest gifts of healings in another. This again implies that an individual believer can manifest all nine of the gifts of the Spirit, with different gifts being manifested through her/him at different points in time.

1 Corinthians 13:9 says, “For we know in part and we prophesy in part.” What does this mean?

People think prophecy means that we will read a person like a book, tell all their past, present and future and totally shock them with the prophecy. However, God does not release prophecy according to our liking but according to His wisdom. We know in part and hence we can only prophesy that part that has been revealed to us from God. There are times when the Spirit of God may give us a word with many

details to deliver to someone. Other times, it may be just a simple word, a small sentence that may not sound impressive at all.

Our objective must be to listen and what He reveals is what we ought to prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:5 says, “He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified.” So does it mean prophesy is a better gift than tongues?

There is nothing like the best or better gift. All gifts are equally important. For instance, both speaking in tongues and prophecy bring edification or spiritual building up. Speaking in tongues builds up the person who speaks in tongues, whereas prophecy builds up the people being prophesied to. So if I am alone, the best gift to exercise is to speak or pray in tongues. If I am ministering to others, the best gift to exercise is prophecy. All can speak in tongues and all can prophesy. But depending on where we are and what we are doing, one is more appropriate than the other.

Paul says in Romans 8:26: “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.”

Watch this video and answer the questions below.

Video Presentation

Video: The Holy Spirit helps us to pray.

Duration: From the beginning to 3 minutes and 40seconds

How does the Holy Spirit help us pray?

Praying in tongues helps us pray the perfect will of God. Many times, we don't even know how we should pray, but the Holy Spirit does. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray the right way.

Discuss on the lines of what was taught in the video, how the Spirit goes to work concerning a need when we pray in tongues.

Praying in tongues helps eliminate selfishness from our prayer. It is like a secret prayer language to God.



APPLICATION

Many Christians say that the gift of tongues is “gibberish,” or “of the Devil.” We know this is not the truth. Often believers who have been filled with the Spirit and spoken in tongues doubt their experience because they seem to repeat again and again certain sentences or phrases in their unknown tongue. We should realise that even when we speak in English we do not use any extensive vocabulary when we are praising the Lord. We just say, “Praise the Lord,” “Hallelujah” etc. The Holy Spirit may inspire us to speak only a few words, the words may be repetitive but these words can reach the very highest levels of praise and express the otherwise indescribable longings of our soul and our unspeakable feelings of love for God. It gives us the ability to pray on a new level, for it is God praying through us to perform things more abundantly than we can ask or think.

Don’t be discouraged to continue speaking in tongues thinking that your utterances are few and repetitive. Also since your mind does not understand what you are saying, let it not stop you from praying in tongues. Continue speaking in tongues everyday because this gift is given to build faith, love and edify your soul, bless and transform your character and life, just as Paul said the person who speaks in tongues “edifies himself.” Diligently using the gift of tongues will transform your character and bless your whole personality.

To be prophetic is to simply hear what God is saying and then say or do what God has told you. The release of the prophetic does not always have to be for “ministry use” only. The prophetic can be released in and through you to solve a problem at school or home, to inspire a creative idea for your project work or when you are using your talent, to provide direction to someone facing a problem and so on. If we desire for and learn to express the prophetic in everyday life, I am sure God will be glorified so much more through all of our lives.

If you speak in tongues, make a commitment to God today that you will speak in tongues everyday. Also make a commitment on how many minutes you will pray in tongues each day. If you consistently pray in tongues every day, you will notice after a few days you would have prayed for 30 mins or an hour without even

realising the time. Also desire the gifts of speaking in different kind of tongues and the interpretation of tongues.

Write down the obstacles that stop you or will stop you from spending time praying in tongues.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you overcome these hindrances so you can pray in tongues.

If you don't speak in tongues, begin praying each day this week to be baptised in the Spirit. Write down things which are a hindrance for you to be baptised with the Spirit.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you overcome these hindrances or speak to your Children's Church teacher.

Come back next week to share your testimonies.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Power Gifts of the Spirit



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn the three power gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Children will learn how these three gifts operate through believers.
- To encourage children to value, share and receive the gift of faith, healing and working of miracles.



RECAP

- What did we learn last week?
- Recite last week's Memory Verse.



MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 3:20: Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us ...

Material Needed:

- Laptop (to play video)



INTRODUCTION

The last few weeks we have been studying the gifts of the Spirit. Let us see how much you remember.

How many gifts of the Spirit are there?

What is the Scripture reference to the nine gifts of the Spirit?

What are the three categories in which the gifts of the Holy Spirit are divided?

What are the three gifts of Revelation?

What are the three gifts of Communication?

What are the three gifts of Power?

Today, we will study the three Power gifts. The gifts which spring from God's omnipotent love.



TEACHING CONTENT

I. Gift of Faith

Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as: "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

To have faith is to take God at His Word and believe Him. Your faith increases by listening/reading and meditating on the Word of God. As Romans 10:17 says, "... faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."

Every believer already has in them a measure of Faith:

- Saving faith—faith which brings one to salvation.
- Faith which believes God for our needs to be met, which comes by hearing the Word.
- Faith that receives answers to prayer.

Before we were baptised in the Spirit, we all had the measure of faith to receive salvation, to have our needs met and our prayers answered.

Gift of faith is different from the general faith which I just spoke about. The gift of faith is a gift of the Spirit to the believers, in order that we:

- Will receive miracles which are far beyond the capacity of ordinary faith.
- Raise the dead
- Cast out evil spirits—we cannot deal with the devil in our own strength. God has given us His Word, His Power, His authority and the spiritual weapons necessary to defeat the power of satan, and one of these spiritual weapons is the gift of faith.
- Lay hands on people for them to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Pronounce blessings, which can miraculously and permanently change the entire course of one's life.

When the gift of faith operates in us, it allows us to possess a portion of the same miracle faith that Jesus has. It removes any feeling of doubt and unbelief. This gift empowers us to believe the impossible and do the impossible without any strain.

Example from the Early Church which illustrates the operation of the gift of faith:

We read in Acts Chapter 3 that when Peter and John were visiting the temple during the time of prayer, a man crippled from birth was carried to the temple gate called Beautiful. When the crippled beggar asked Peter and John for money, Peter manifested the gift of faith when he boldly told the beggar "... silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk" (Acts 3:6). The crippled beggar jumped to his feet and began to walk. Many who were in the temple were astonished and Peter shared the gospel with them. He said, "By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through Him that has given this complete healing to him ..." (Acts 3:16).

Thus, Peter through the operation of the gift of faith was able to heal the crippled beggar.

In your workbook is an illustration of the operations of the gift of faith by Steven Brooks you can read it at home.

Let's watch a video in which we see the Doctor stepping out in faith and doing what God asked him to do.

Video Presentation:

Summary: Dead man raised back to life.

Duration: 6minutes and 8seconds

II. Working of Miracles

There are many miracles that God has done and will continue to do in our lives. For example, the spiritual birth of a "born-again experience" is a miracle. There have also been times when God has answered our prayers with miracles. However, none of these are the manifestation of the working of miracles. The "working of miracles" mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12 specifically refers to a divine intervention in the ordinary course of nature. E.g.: Dividing of the Red Sea; Jesus feeding the 5000 with 5 loaves and 2 fishes, etc. The example of Peter healing the crippled beggar which I just narrated to you is an example of working of miracles.

In your workbook is an incident narrated by Dr. DGS Dhinakaran which illustrates the operation of the gift of working of miracles. Read it quietly for yourself.

III. Gifts of Healings

What does the 'gifts of healings' mean? Because there are many kinds of sicknesses, one gift wouldn't heal every kind of disease. Not every healing that happens is a manifestation of the gift of healings. God has healed many people of their sickness and disease because they had faith and believed on His Word, and so God did a miracle by healing them.

The "gift of healings" however is specifically given to a few individuals whom the Holy Spirit chooses. Gifts of healings is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:9), and it occurs first, when the person with the particular gift receives a word of wisdom or knowledge to know what the situation is and what to do about it. Second, he needs a manifestation of faith to bring to pass the healing. Third, he must represent Christ on earth and, via the power of God, bring the healing to pass as God supplies the energy for it.

It is important that we see the difference between praying for someone and commanding a healing by revelation. Prayer is very important, and many verses tell us to pray. However, when it comes to helping God's people by manifesting the gifts of healings, it is vital to understand that it does not mean praying for someone to be healed. Notice how Jesus healed a man with leprosy who came and knelt before Him and said, "'Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.' Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' He said. 'Be clean!' Immediately he was cured of his leprosy" (Matthew 8:2, 3).

Jesus did not pray to God to heal the leper. He knew it was God's will and He knew He had the power of God and used it.

Example from the Early Church which illustrates the operation of the gifts of healings:

When Peter healed the beggar who was crippled from birth, he received revelation that the man had faith to be healed, he said, "... what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk" (Acts 3:6). Peter knew he had power, and he freely gave it, just as he had seen Jesus do on so many occasions.

Notice that Peter did not pray. Once he knew the will of God by revelation, he commanded the healing. He did the same thing to Tabitha, who had died. He prayed for guidance, then turned to the dead body and commanded, "Tabitha, get up" and she got up. (Acts 9:40).



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:31, 14:1, 38 encourages us several times to "earnestly desire" the gifts. What does it mean?

It literally means to have warmth of feeling for, to be zealous about and to be jealous over something. Whenever there is an opportunity to serve someone, in your

spirit lift up a prayer to the Holy Spirit saying that you desire such and such gifts appropriate for that moment.

People get all religious and supposedly super spiritual and teach that we must seek the Giver not the gifts, and we must not be so zealous about spiritual gifts. What do you think?

I think such opinions are actually contradicting what God Himself said. God told us to eagerly desire spiritual gifts and to be zealous for them. We know that we have to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. That is how we live each moment, full of love and passion for God. Of course we root our ministry in intimacy, prayer and worship of our God. Out of our love for Him, we desire to obey Him. To obey Him, we follow the instructions given to us in His Word, where He told us not to be ignorant about spiritual gifts and to earnestly desire spiritual gifts.

After Paul listed the nine gifts of the Spirit he said, "... But eagerly desire the greater gifts." So which do you think are the greater or best gifts?

There is no such thing as a 'greater' or 'best gift.' Believers are told to "earnestly desire the best gifts" (1 Corinthians 12:31). Notice it says "gifts" and not the singular "gift." This implies that we must desire for more than just one gift. The best gift (or gifts) is the gift that is most appropriate for the situation at hand. If you are ministering to a sick person, the best gifts would be the gifts of healing, the working of miracles and the gift of faith to bring a healing to that person.

If a person is totally well physically, but is very discouraged, then the gift of prophecy would be the best gift to encourage or comfort that individual.

If the person you are ministering to is facing a very complex situation or needs to make a major decision, the gift of the word of wisdom and the gift of the word of knowledge would be the best gifts in that situation.

So a believer must desire the best gifts depending on what is needed to be addressed. This obviously implies that every believer can and must desire to manifest all nine of the gifts of the Spirit. For instance, both speaking in tongues and prophecy bring edification or spiritual building up. Speaking in tongues builds up the person who speaks in tongues, whereas prophecy builds up the people being prophesied

to. So if I am alone, the best gift to exercise is to speak or pray in tongues. If I am ministering to others, the best gift to exercise is prophecy. All can speak in tongues and all can prophesy. But depending on where and what you are doing, one is more appropriate than the other.

Why don't we have more manifestations of spiritual gifts in the Church today?

We are not meeting God's condition of desiring the right gifts. King James Version says, "But covet earnestly the best gifts."

The dictionary defines 'covet' as desiring earnestly. Paul is saying that we must earnestly desire the gifts of the Spirit to be manifested among us. Begin by praying earnestly for the fullness of the spiritual gifts to manifest in the Church through the believers. It is not enough to pray just once and then stop, but we must pray continually for the manifestation of the spiritual gifts in the church.

Do the gifts of the Spirit operate together or separately?

Often the gifts of the Spirit operate together. Example: If you are ministering to a sick person, God will reveal a word of knowledge about the specific sickness He wants to heal. Through the gift of the discerning of spirits, you can know if the demon spirits of infirmity are responsible for a person's sickness or disease. Thus, the Holy Spirit will reveal or put His finger on the exact source of the problem. Then you will receive a word of wisdom on how to minister healing to that person. When you are going to minister healing based on the word of knowledge and the wisdom you received, the gift of faith begins to operate and we simply do what God has revealed. The healing then takes place which is the working of a miracle.

How does the word of Knowledge come when God wants us to heal someone?

The word of Knowledge can come through a feeling of discomfort in a particular part of our body, showing us the part of the body that we need to minister healing to, whom God is showing us. The discomfort is often described as a pressure, a tingling, or a sensation or a slight pain.

We can receive a word or thought, which describes the sickness, disease or pain.

It can also come by a vision of the part of the body needing healing.

Sometimes, God will reveal the location of the person, or even the exact person that He desires to heal at that time. We may feel a pull toward a section of the room, to a particular aisle, or to the exact location of the person.

God may even reveal the name of the person, or identification, that when spoken out will assure the person that they are the one whom the Holy Spirit is pointing out for that particular healing.



APPLICATION

Miracles are the normal work of God. God has always manifested Himself in signs, wonders and miracles when His people have followed Him with all their hearts. Jesus' ministry was a continuous manifestation of signs, wonders and miracles. God earnestly desires to manifest the spiritual gifts that produce these signs, wonders and miracles, in His Church today. God loves to do "wonderful works," "mighty works," and "miracles." By manifesting His glory and presence, through signs, wonders and miracles, God intends that people think of spiritual things. He does not intend for people to just be left in amazement and wonder. These wonders and miracles which Jesus did and which are recorded for us in Scripture were a sign pointing the way to God, or to God's way. They are directing the one seeing to Christ and His Father.

God desires and is willing to give you this gift but only when you desire to manifest them. When these gifts operate in your life, you manifest His presence, the power of God and confirm the good news of salvation in Christ. How blessed we are that we can! "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20).

Maybe you have been waiting for God to do something in your life or in the lives of those around you. Maybe you have been saying, "I know God is able to change this situation, help me in my studies etc. I wonder why He does not do it." If so, let us read that last phrase again. It says He is able to do above what we can ask or think according to the power that works in us!

I encourage you today to start building your faith in that power. Look at yourself in the mirror and say, "The Spirit of God is living in me today and I expect Him to do wise, wonderful, amazing and miraculous things through me!" Instead of thinking on your problems and what you do not have and what you cannot achieve, believe in the power and sufficiency of the Greater One who lives and walks within you, every moment of every day.

When you begin to realize what a dynamite team you two really are, you will blast off into ... exceedingly above all that you can ask or think ... and the devil will never be able to catch or stop you.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER

