

Understanding Spiritual gifts part 1
April 22nd 2018...John 16-18

At some time or another you may have received a gift that you had no idea what it was or what they were thinking when they purchased it for you.

You are handed the gift and they watch with anticipation as you open it and you are lost as to what it is and why it is.

I feel sure we have all received gifts that we don't know how to use or what they are used for.

My mother gave me a gift years ago that when I opened it I was first of all amazed that she bought it and that she would give it to me.

It was a little man that was a wine bottle holder the wine bottle was held in his hands.

I thought ok wine was not allowed in our house and not allowed in my body so what is this gift?

I found myself in possession of a gift that I had no idea what to do with or even why I was given it.

And the funny thing is 15 years later I still have the gift but it is still in the box and it has never been used.

The same applies it comes to spiritual gifts.

We as believers have gifts given to us by God but they are like the little wino man my mom gave me they are still in the box and never been used.

And one reason is because so many times we don't understand **why** they were given to us, **what** we are supposed to do with them or **how** to use them.

Today I want to start a series that I feel is extremely important and one that I pray will stir the sinner to repentance...

And stir the saint into action.

2nd Tim. 1:6 says *to stir up the gift of God which is in you.*

When it comes to receiving a gift I have found that to understand the gift it requires understanding the giver.

The better you understand the giver the better you understand the gift.

It is the giver that knows **not only why** the gift was given **but how the gift** is to be used **and why** that particular gift was given *to you.*

John 3:16 we see the greatest gift God could ever give...it was the gift that keeps on giving and that is Jesus Christ.

For God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

The greatest gift of all was given to us by God and that was His Son to die for our sins.

When you accept Jesus into your life you receive the greatest gift you will ever receive.

He is a gift that **will never get old, break, lose its appeal** and **He is a one size fits all kind of gift.**

The gift of Jesus and the gift of salvation is a life changing, eternity changing gift.

God gave His Son, His Son gave His life but it didn't stop there.

In John 14:16 Jesus said...*And I will pray the Father and He will give you another Helper that He may abide with you forever.*

Here we see another gift from God and another gift that will last forever.

The gift of a Helper which also means Comforter or Advocate.

But there is more to this than just that...

Jesus said I will give (meaning gift) you another...

The word **another** signifies the personal distinction of another individual.

In these verses we are seeing the Trinity.

Jesus said He would pray to the Father and the answer to His prayer is the Holy Spirit.

God the Father...God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

God in three persons.

Trinity comes from tri meaning three and unity meaning one...triunity=trinity.

There are some illustrations that help explain...

One is an egg ...the egg consists of the shell, the yolk and the egg white.

One egg three parts.

Another is the sun...the sun is light, heat and radiation. Three distinct aspects but only one sun.

And then there is H₂O which consists of water, ice and steam but they are all H₂O

If you were to use math it would not be addition like $1+1+1=3$.

It would multiplication $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$.

God is seen as three persons who have the same essence of deity.

Each is distinct from the other but never acts independently.

They are one in nature and one in purpose.

John 14:17 The Holy Spirit is identified further as...The Spirit of Truth.

Verse 16 ...*I will pray the Father and He will give you another Helper or The Holy Spirit that He may abide with you forever.*

This is talking about the abiding presence of The Holy Spirit in a person's life.

Abide means lasting stay or to take up residence.

But this does not apply to everyone.

Notice Jesus goes on to say *whom the world cannot receive.*

When Jesus uses the word world He is not talking about the earth with all of its countries, peoples and natural features.

World is a term that defines those that are godless and separate from Him.

World refers to those who are under the influence of the things of the world such as **pride and ambition and pleasure.**

World refers to people that are not Christians.

Worldly people are people who live under the influence of their senses they walk by sight and not by faith.

What they cannot perceive by their senses or what does not gratify their sight, taste and feel doesn't make an impression on them.

Jesus goes on to say why the world cannot receive... *because it neither sees Him nor knows Him.*

The Holy Spirit can only be known by those who have spiritual perception.

Matter fact the first act of the Holy Spirit in a person's life is to open their eyes.

He opens our eyes so that we can see what we are without God and that is a sinner.

He opens our eyes so we will have spiritual perception so that we can see God and things of God.

I love the song open the eyes of my heart Lord I want to see You.

When God opens our spiritual eyes we *see the need for Him* the *need to praise* Him and the *need to tell others* about Him.

When the spiritual eyes of the heart are not opened it means a person just comes to church...

When the eyes of the heart are opened we become the church.

- When our spiritual eyes are open we see what the Lord has done and is doing in our lives.
- When the eyes of the heart are opened we see why people get happy in the service.
- When our spiritual eyes are open we don't just watch people get happy we get happy as well.

Verse 17...*But you know Him for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

God gave His Son to **live among people** then He sent The Holy Spirit to live **within people**.

The Holy Spirit is not in heaven He is living within the believer.

That's how we are enabled to praise and how we are enabled to worship.

After the Holy Spirit opens our eyes and leads us to Jesus **His focus is on Jesus being praised and glorified.**

His focus is on empowering us to do the work of the Lord.

The Holy Spirit is either living in you or wanting to live within you.

When I was a kid my parents turned our upstairs and basement into an apartment.

The basement had its own side entrance but the upstairs didn't.

So that meant anyone who lived upstairs came in the front door right by our dining room and living room to get there.

Because of that it meant my dad had to be very particular to who he rented to because when we were gone they could go right through our stuff.

Since The Holy Spirit is living within us we ought to know who He is.

It is important first of all to understand what The Holy Spirit is not.

He is not a *vague impersonal force, thing or influence.*

The Bible describes the Holy Spirit as having attributes as a person...

Acts 10:19 tells us He speaks...

John 16:13 tells us He hears...

John 16:14 tells us He acts...

Acts 5:3 tells us He can be lied to...

Ephesians 4:30 tells us He can be grieved...

Matthew 12:31 tells us He can be blasphemed.

Rom. 15:30 tells us He loves.

The Holy Spirit is not someone sent from God...

He is God he is in co-equal union with God the Father and God the Son.

Since Jesus went back to the Father and is no longer walking this earth...

It means the Holy Spirit is the member of the Trinity with whom we have the most direct contact.

- Jesus is Emmanuel or God with us...
- The Holy Spirit is the Comforter God within us.

The Holy Spirit is the divine agent who carries out the Father's will in His dealings with His believers.

We go to the Father in the name of Jesus or we tell the Father what we need and it is placed into our lives by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit not only opens a person's eyes and leads to Jesus or salvation...

Once a person accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and The Holy Spirit moves into their life...

2nd Cor. 1:22 tells us *His presence becomes a seal of ownership making us the property of God.*

- The indwelling Spirit in us is the divine pledge that God loves us and that we belong to Him.

The Holy Spirit indwells and directs and empowers every step of our life.

Here are a few of the things He does...

John 16:13-15 tells us *The Holy Spirit guides us into the truth and reveals to us the things of God.*

Galatians 5:18 tells us *He leads us to do God's will.*

Mark 13:11 and Acts 10:19 tells us *He speaks to us and through us.*

Romans 5:5 tells us *He fills our hearts with the love of God.*

Acts 1:8 *He empowers us.*

2nd Peter 1:21 *He inspires us.*

Romans 8:26 *He prays for us.*

2nd Cor. 12:7 *He bestows gifts upon us.*

The Holy Spirit is our *teacher*...our *guide*...our *strength* and our *constant companion*.

The Bible uses many names to describe The Holy Spirit and each name reveals something about His essence.

In Gen. 1:2 He is called *the Spirit of God*.

In Isaiah 61:1 He is called *the Spirit of the Lord God*.

In Luke 4:18 He is called *The Spirit of the Lord*.

In 1st Cor. 6:11 He is called *the Spirit of our God*.

2nd Cor. 3:3 *The Spirit of the Living God*.

Judges 3:10 *The Spirit of the Lord*.

Num. 11:29 *His Spirit*.

Mt. 10:20 *The Spirit of your Father*.

Gen. 6:3 *My Spirit*.

In Romans 8:11 *The Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead*.

The most familiar name is Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost which are the same.

He is called the Holy Spirit because He is holy.

There are a lot of unholy spirits in the world only one Holy Spirit.

- What He does manifest who and what He is... holy.
- He is the standard of holiness.

That means everything the Holy Spirit does in our lives will be sinless and perfect.

The name Holy Spirit describes all the *goodness, grace, love and fullness* of the eternal God.

In John 16:14 we see The Holy Spirit never draws attention to Himself He works *to bear witness to and to glorify Jesus.*

The Holy Spirit is personal...

He knows you and he knows what you **have done and **what you are capable of doing...****

What you have been and what you can be.

He knows what you have been through and are going through and He wants to be there to get you through.

He wants to demonstrate to you who He is by being your helper, your advocate and your advisor.

Jesus was God's gift to us and The Holy Spirit is Jesus' gift to you.

The question is will you accept the gift?