

## EXPLORING GOD'S WORD TEACHER'S GUIDE: LESSON 9A

*[Assigned Reading: 1 Corinthians 12-13 & Galatians 5]  
[Themes to Teach: Gifts of the Spirit & Walking in the Spirit]*

In our last lesson, we explored the birth of the New Testament church on the day of Pentecost and how the Apostles interpreted and applied the Great Commission given to them by Jesus. However, the experience of the Spirit was not just an initial experience. The church is a supernatural organism that is unified and empowered by the working of the Spirit. Through the Spirit, God also gave supernatural gifts to the church to help it accomplish its mission.

### I. **THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT:** (Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-14)

The gifts of the Spirit are given to edify the body of Christ and for the work of ministry.

The gifts of the Spirit should be normal within the church, but not continuous.

Each gift is a supernatural empowerment beyond our own limited human abilities.

Paul lists nine spiritual gifts, and these gifts can be grouped into three categories:

1. Power to know things supernaturally:
  - a. A word of knowledge: God gives information previously unknown.
  - b. A word of wisdom: God gives direction beyond one's human wisdom.
  - c. The discerning of spirits: God reveals what kind of spirit is at work in a specific situation.
  
2. Power to act supernaturally:
  - a. The gift of faith: God gives great faith for a specific task or moment.
  - b. The gift of healing: God gives the ability to pray effectively for the sick.
  - c. The working of miracles: God gives the power to work miracles.
  
3. Power to speak supernaturally:
  - a. The gift of prophecy: God speaks prophetically through someone.
  - b. Diverse kinds of tongues: God gives the ability to speak in a previously unknown language – heavenly or human.
  - c. The interpretation of tongues: God gives one the ability to interpret a message given in tongues.

Having saving faith is not the same as the "gift of faith," and having wisdom is not the same as operating in the "word of wisdom". The spiritual gifts are a supernatural empowerment from God, given to edify the body in a specific way.

## II. CHRISTIANS MUST LEARN TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT:

Even as the Spirit of God is essential in the corporate church setting, it is also essential in the life of the individual. We are all called to personally walk in the Spirit and to develop the fruit of the Spirit.

1. When we are born again, we become a new creature. (Read 2 Corinthians 5:17)

### **2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV 1900)**

**17** Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

2. As a born-again Christians, we have two natures:
  - a. A sinful nature called the flesh or the old man.
  - b. And a heavenly nature called the spirit or the new man.

### **Ephesians 4:22–24 (KJV 1900)**

**22** That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

**23** And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

**24** And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

3. Being born of the Spirit is just the beginning. We must learn to walk in the Spirit.

### **Galatians 5:25 (KJV 1900)**

**25** If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

4. When we walk in the Spirit, we are empowered to overcome the old nature and its desires.

### **Galatians 5:16–17 (KJV 1900)**

**16** This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

**17** For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

## III. HOW DO WE WALK IN THE SPIRIT?

1. We must crucify the flesh:

### **Galatians 5:24–25 (KJV 1900)**

**24** And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

**25** If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

The flesh and the spirit are in conflict. We must refuse those things that strengthen the old nature. We must daily surrender our will to His in prayer.

2. Our mind must be renewed:

**Romans 12:1–2 (KJV 1900)**

**1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

**2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Our minds (thought-life, attitude, responses, etc.) were influenced under our old sinful nature. We must renew our minds to match our new identity.

**Romans 8:5–8 (KJV 1900)**

**5** For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

**6** For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

**7** Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

**8** So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

We can cultivate a mind controlled by the Spirit of God. This is done through prayer, fasting, study of God's Word, and guarding against ungodly influences on our thought life.

**IV. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT:** (Read Galatians 5:22-23)

1. As we walk in the Spirit, the nature of God is revealed in our lives. We call this the fruit of the Spirit. It is the work of the Holy Spirit transforming our character and attitudes.
2. The fruit of the Spirit is the long-term evidence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

**Galatians 5:22–23 (NIV)**

**22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

**23** gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

3. Contrast the fruit of the Spirit with the works of the flesh. The works of the flesh are the default settings of our life.

**Galatians 5:19–21 (NIV)**

**19** The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;

**20** idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions

**21** and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

No matter how much these works may have defined our lives, we can live free through the power of His Spirit!