

## **COME HOLY SPIRIT: A SERMON SERIES ON THE HOLY SPIRIT #5**

**“We are a Gifted People: The Grace of God for The People of God” (The Gifts of the Holy Spirit)**

**Scripture Readings: Isaiah 11:2-3; I Corinthians 12:1-14; Ephesians 4:7-13; I Peter 4:10-11**

**The Nicene Creed:** “We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified; who spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.”

“Without the Holy Spirit, Christian discipleship would be inconceivable, even impossible. There can be no life without the life-giver, no understanding without the Spirit of truth, no fellowship without the unity of the Spirit, no Christlikeness of character apart from His fruit, and no effective witness without His power. As a body without breath is a corpse, so the church without the Spirit is dead.” **John Stott**

**\*\*\*God, The Holy Spirit, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Member of the Trinity, is able and willing to breathe new life into our souls and the Church, rekindle our dying and struggling faith, inflame our passion for God, and enliven us to be part of God’s mission in the world. The Holy Spirit has been, is and will continue to be present and active in the world and in human lives until the eternal purposes and promises of God are fulfilled.**

### **I. Introduction to The Gifts of the Holy Spirit:**

**A. The New Testament Scriptures on The Gifts of the Holy Spirit:** 1. Romans 12:3-8; 2. 1 Corinthians 12&14; 3. Ephesians 4:7-13 4. 1 Peter 4:10-11). Tongues and Prophecy have been the most “controversial” gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**B. The New Testament Greek Words for The Gifts of the Holy Spirit:** There are different Greek words used for gifts... **a gift** (dorea, doma in Ephesians 4:7-8 ); **a grace gift** (charisma in Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:4; 1 Corinthians 12:9; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 1 Corinthians 12:30-31; 1 Peter 4:10 ); **a "spiritual" gift** (pneumatika 1 Corinthians 12:1; 14:1,37).

**\*\*\*Summary:** The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are distinctive, divinely originated endowments to serve the Triune God for the common benefit of his people, the church ( Rom 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:12-13 and 1 Peter 4:10 ) in worship, in ministry and in mission. While given to individuals they are given to serve God and to serve others and are therefore only discerned, discovered, nurtured and utilized in community...just like the Virtues, Fruit of The Holy Spirit.

### **II. The 7-Fold Gifts of the Holy Spirit (correspond and perfect/complete the 7 Virtues)**

**A. Wisdom** is considered the first and the greatest of the gifts. It acts upon both the intellect and the will. Wisdom is the perfection of the virtue of charity;

**B. Understanding** is a perceptive intuition which illuminates the mind to grasp the truths of faith. It does not involve a comprehensive understanding of the mysteries of faith, but helps a person understand that these mysteries are credible; compatible with and related to each other; and not unreasonable. The gift of understanding perfects the virtue of faith.

**C. Counsel/Right Judgment** functions as a sort of supernatural intuition, to enable a person to judge promptly and rightly, especially in difficult situations. It perfects the virtue of prudence. While prudence operates in accord with reason as enlightened by faith, the gift of counsel operates under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to illuminate the will of God.

**D. Fortitude** is often identified with courage/endurance as the willingness to stand up for what is right in the sight of God, even if it means accepting rejection, verbal abuse, or physical harm. The gift of fortitude allows people the firmness of mind that is required both in doing good and in enduring evil. It is the perfection of the virtue of the same name.

**E. Knowledge** is the gift of knowledge allows one, as far as is humanly possible, to see things from God's perspective. It "allows us to perceive the greatness of God and his love for his creatures" through creation.

**F. Piety** accords with reverence. A person with reverence recognizes their total reliance on God and comes before God with humility, trust, and love. Piety perfects the virtue of religion, which is an aspect of the virtue of justice, in that it accords to God that which is due him. Piety is a recognition of our belonging to God, our deep bond with him, a relationship that gives meaning to our whole life and keeps us resolute, in communion with him, even during the most difficult and troubled moments. "Piety is not mere outward religiosity; it is that genuine religious spirit which makes us turn to the Father as his children and to grow in our love for others, seeing them as our brothers and sisters.

**G. Fear of the Lord** is related to wonder and awe: With the gift of fear of the Lord, one is made aware of the glory and majesty of God, a joyful awareness of God's grandeur and a grateful realization that only in him do our hearts find true peace. A person with wonder and awe knows that God is the perfection of all one desires. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. It is the perfection of the theological virtue of hope.

### **Conclusions and Applications: A Final Word**

**I Corinthians 12** teaches that 1) The Spiritual Gifts are only given to those who confess Jesus as Lord; 2) All the gifts originate from the Triune God; 3) All Christians have at least one gift; 4) Gifts are for the common building-up of the church; 5) There is diversity within unity; 6) The gifts are given as the Spirit determines; 7) All the gifts are necessary for the maturity of the church; 8) There is a ranking of gifts, but the sequence is more one of chronology than of priority. 9) No one gift is available to all Christians and no specific gift may be made a criterion of salvation, sanctification, or spiritual status.

**I Corinthians 13** stresses that without love spiritual gifts are worthless.

**I Corinthians 14** begins with the following: "Follow the way of love and eagerly desire the gifts of the Holy Spirit."

**Questions:** How has the Holy Spirit gifted you? How are you using the gift(s) that the Holy Spirit has given you?

**Next Week: "Pentecost-The Church Unleashed by The Holy Spirit" (Please Read Acts 2 before coming to church next Week!)**