



Activating the 9 Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Part 1)

John 15:26 (Amp) “But when the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor, Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby) comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of Truth who comes from the Father, He will testify and bear witness about Me.”

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are for every believer. The right gift is activated at the right moment. God wants us to demonstrate His love through the gifts of the Spirit. God wants us to bless the body of Christ. People need to know that Jesus is alive! It is important to take these gifts beyond the four walls of the church. Don't be ignorant about the wiles of the devil or about the gifts of the Spirit.

God doesn't expect His body to get through this life and do the work He has planned for each one of us to do without His help. Our God is a God of endless possibilities who wants a deep personal relationship with us. A job we can't do without His help is a God sized job. Expect Him to call you to do things you can't do on your own. We need to remember Who lives inside of us. When we asked Jesus to come into our heart and be our Lord and Savior we were asking Almighty God, the Creator of the Universe who has unlimited power to come and live inside of us. He is a gentleman, we have free will to obey Him or not but we have unlimited power available to us to do His will.

Maturing in Christ is a lifelong process, learning to take one step of faith with our Savior at a time. I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit when I had gone forward for prayer at a teaching/healing mission at an Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh many years ago. The Holy Spirit already dwelled inside of me but the Lord began to activate many of His spiritual gifts within me. The bishop anointed my head with oil and prayed for the healing of the painful memories from the past the Lord had brought up. Then his wife, who also had strong spiritual gifts said, “anoint her hands as well.” My hands tingled all that night. I believe the gift of healing was first bestowed upon me at that time. Not only did God heal the painful memories, unlock the gift of healing, but there was this power I had never known to this extent before and a greater love for Jesus. When I read the Scriptures and prayed they took on new meaning. There was a holy boldness I had not known before. I was clueless as to what happened to me. A few days later I met with a deacon at my church. She had this big smile on her face as she sat back in her chair. Then she explained what had happened. She and her husband had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit many years before as several other people at the church had, but they did not regularly teach about the gifts of the Spirit.

When I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit I did not speak in tongues. The Lord needed to do a lot of healing before I was willing to give up control enough to let it happen. But why is the gift of tongues important for us to have? In **I Cor. 12 & 14** Paul stated that he wished everyone to speak in tongues, but that it was not the greatest spiritual gift we should desire. The gift of tongues builds us up and helps us pray most effectively. The Holy Spirit knows how we should pray when we do not know how to pray. Unless the Holy Spirit initially gives me direction in how to pray when I lay hands on people and pray for their healing, I begin by praying quietly in tongues until Holy Spirit shows me how He wants me to pray. **Rom. 8:26 (NIV) “The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to**