

“UNDERSTANDING THE EMPOWERMENT”

“Because as a Believer I am rooted in Him, alive in Him, hidden in Him and complete in Him, it is utterly inconsistent for me to live life without Him.

When we are - clothed in His love, with peace ruling our hearts, we are equipped to make Christ first in every area of life!”

Last Sunday I spoke of the “Shape & Dimension of Resurrection Life” and described how we simply cannot live apart from or reject the Holy Spirit.

I made this conclusion:

If we as the Church ignore, disregard or reject the Holy Spirit today ... we are no different to the Church that ignored, disregarded & rejected Jesus when He walked amongst men!

As I came to this conclusion, it made me think more about the things of God and the fullness of this Resurrection Life that is freely available to us ...and WHERE and WHAT IT IS FOR!

In a very basic breakdown I believe we have *two foundational reasons* for being here on Earth – **to Love God ... and ... make His Love Known** ... **one of these two reasons does not need to be done in Heaven** ... therefore I have concluded that the very reason we are here on Earth is to **“Make His Love Known”**.

To do this God has made His Resurrection Power - The Holy Spirit – available to all. We cannot be indifferent towards the Salvation that Jesus made available.

INDIFFERENT: uncaring, unresponsive, apathetic, uninterested, unconcerned, and unmoved.

HEBREWS 2:3-4 (NLT)

What makes us think that we can escape if we are indifferent to this great salvation that was announced by the Lord Jesus himself? It was passed on to us by those who heard Him speak, and God verified the message by signs and wonders and various miracles and by giving gifts of the Holy Spirit whenever He chose to do so.

The Holy Spirit is manifest (**revealed, displayed, evident, obvious, unmistakeable, undeniable, visible**) in a large variety of ways and **WE ARE ALL INVOLVED!**

We are going to look at this today.

1 CORINTHIANS 12: 4-7 (NKJV)

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There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

(MSG) Vs7: Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people!

To break down the ‘diversities of Gifts’; I am going to put them into three specific categories.

1: The Five Ministry Gifts:

Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor (Shepherd) and Teacher.

These are not just gifts but as directed and bestowed by the Holy Spirit can become what has been described as ‘the office of ... , or mantle of’ where it is recognised that the individual has been appointed & works predominantly and specifically in one or two of these rather than functioning under a released anointing for a time. (e.g. King Saul & prophecy).

2: Manifestation Gifts:

Wisdom, Knowledge, Discernment, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Speaking in Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues and Prophecy

3: Motivation Gifts:

Prophecy, Serving, Encouraging, Giving, Leadership, Mercy, Helps, Administration, Prayer and Intercession.

Now as we look at these categories and go through the list we may think in our minds, “Yep ... that’s me, that’s not, there is NO WAY I am doing that, I wouldn’t mind doing that...” and we can get caught up in treating these gifts as a bit of a *SITUATIONS VACANT* listing.

I believe to do this is both correct and incorrect.

‘Correct’ because we are encouraged by the Apostle Paul to desire after Spiritual Gifts;

1 Corinthians 14:1

“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts,...”

But here's the caution: I believe we are '*incorrect*' in treating or minimising these gifts to "personal preference" because **we so often restrict what God can do** in and through us simply **because we do not believe** what He says about us and what He wants to do through us.

What does the Word of God say about the empowering of the Holy Spirit?

EPHESIANS 3:16-19

¹⁶that He would grant you, **according to the riches of His glory**, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend **with all the saints** what is the width and length and depth and height— ¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be **filled with all the fullness of God**.

Key words in this passage:

❖ **according to the riches of His glory (true riches ... His gifts)**

NB: - Luke 16:1-13 tells the story of an unjust or untrustworthy steward and the fact that he was unfaithful with the worldly wealth – money he was entrusted with.

Vs:11 states "And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?"

If the Lord sees that we cannot be trusted in the manner that the World functions (financially) then how can He trust us to function in how Heaven functions (Spiritually)?

❖ **With all the saints (we are all involved here!)**

1CORINTHIANS 12:7 Each person is given something to do that shows who God is

❖ **Filled with all the fullness of God. (look at gift list and see if these are the fullness of God)**

When we look at the five Ministry Gifts; these are the ones that we are not all called to be; however, each and every one of us could be functioning in the other **EIGHTEEN** Gifts.

Now does this mean we will all function in all of them all the time?

Not necessarily, **BUT** ... I believe that we should be in a place with God that at any given moment the Holy Spirit can anoint us to move in any of them.

It is the Holy Spirit who empowers believers for service with the evidence being seen through the gifts.

We should avoid thinking of the empowering or filling as something that can be turned on and off as we would a tap at our choosing.

Being empowered by the Holy Spirit is firstly a blessing and gift and should not be treated lightly or indifference. It is the result of a consistent walk with God, and depends on a genuine, mature and available relationship with the Holy Spirit. **Simply asking to be filled will not bring it.**

Therefore **our availability to & our walk with God** are of the utmost importance!

Perhaps I can encourage you with a description of a walk with God described in this 'meeting transcript'

A committee of ministers in a certain city was discussing the possibility of having D. L. Moody to serve as the evangelist during a city-wide evangelistic campaign.

Finally, one young minister who did not want to invite Moody stood up and said: "Why Moody? Does he have a monopoly of the Holy Spirit?"

There was silence. Then an old, godly minister spoke up: "No, he does not have a monopoly of the Holy Spirit; but the Holy Spirit has a monopoly of D. L. Moody." American evangelist (1837 - 1899)

Walking with God in a correct relationship and not quenching the Holy Spirit are vitally important ...and as we walk being totally available for the Holy Spirit to operate and move through - there is one other equally and vitally important decision that needs to be made:

The Bible teaches us that it is by faith that we will see the Power of God released.

Peter marveled at the way Jesus spoke to the Fig Tree, and the next day the tree had withered up. "How did you do that?" he asked.

MATTHEW 21:22-24

"Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

If you sit back, and play it safe, you will never enter into these things.

We step out in faith, and speak in tongues, the other gifts work the same way.

John Wimber, founder of the Vineyard churches, tells how they prayed for the sick for about a year, nothing happened. The only thing that did happen was that some of those praying caught the flu off those that they were praying for.

But then all of a sudden, it was like a healing stream began to flow. **They just kept going all that time in faith.**

Friends; I don't stand here today speaking as if I have got there and have all the answers. The Bible says that signs and wonders will follow the preaching of the word ... I WANT TO SEE THAT; actually it is more than seeing it ... I WANT TO BE INVOLVED!!

I believe God has established this church to do great things for His Kingdom and for the Glory of His name - and I also believe that each and every one of you has a part to play and a role to fill.

We are in this together - it is a PARTNERSHIP between the Holy Spirit and us.