

# THE HOLY SPIRIT CONSECRATES

1. THE BEGINNING
2. HE CREATES
3. HE CONVINCES
4. HE CONVICTS
5. HE CONVERTS
6. HE CONSECRATES
7. HE COMFORTS
8. HE COMMITS
9. THE CHALLENGE

"To the church of Corinth, to those who are **consecrated** in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who, wherever they may be, invoke the name of our Lord Jesus Christ," (I Corinthians 1:2)

Goodspeed, also James Moffatt - Published by Harper Brothers 1935

We become sanctified / consecrated when we do as Paul said we *move-operate-walk in the Spirit*. "**If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**" (Galatians 5:25 NKJ)

Some boys in Denver exploring the wild, found a large egg in a nest. They took it home and placed it in a nest of eggs under a goose. It hatched and was not a gosling, but appeared to be a genetic freak of nature with its toes grown together and a crooked twisted beak. It grew in the barnyard of geese. One day a giant eagle began to circle down, down, down over the barnyard. This freakish looking bird started to run across the barn yard flopping its wings. Soon its wings begin to lift it off the ground. It flew up and joined the eagle in the sky.

Sad thing was that all along it had been an eagle living like a goose.

There is a lesson in this for us, we must *walk, live, act in the Spirit*, or we end up being a "goose" when the Lord has designed us to "fly with the eagles."

## EXERCISE 39

*Sanctify* in its various forms is not a good word to translate the Greek word [hagiasmos]. Any word used in a English translation which must be immediately redefined is inadequate.

**In the verses below find another word for "sanctify" in another translation .**

Good comparison translations include--20th. Century N.T., New English Bible, Taylor, Goodspeed, Amplified.

II Thessalonians 2:13

"But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the *sanctifying* (\_\_\_\_\_) work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth." (NIV)

I Corinthians 1:2

"To the church of God in Corinth, to those *sanctified* (\_\_\_\_\_) in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ--their Lord and ours:" (NIV)

I Corinthians 6:11

"And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were *sanctified* (\_\_\_\_\_) you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." (NIV)

1 Thessalonians 4:3

"It is God's will that you should be *sanctified* (\_\_\_\_\_) that you should avoid sexual immorality;" (NIV)

1 Peter 1:2

"(you) have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the *sanctifying* (\_\_\_\_\_) work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance." (NIV)

1 Peter 3:15

"But *sanctify* (\_\_\_\_\_) the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;" (NKJ)

**CONCLUSION:** So, we have discovered that the Holy Spirit desires to *sanctify us*--which in literal Greek is "set apart", consecrate us, makes us pure, Holy, separated, cause us to revere - give honor to Christ in our hearts.

## **The Holy Spirit Sanctifies by**

### **1. Giving Power to Begin Again**

and Power for the Battle with Self and Sin

### **2. Giving FRUIT as evidence of His Presence**

### **3. Giving us GIFTS to serve Others**

The most important thing in the life of any Christian is to be filled with the Holy Spirit! The Lord Jesus said, "Without Me ye can do nothing." Christ is in believers in the person of His Holy Spirit. Therefore, if we are filled with His Spirit, He works fruitfully through us. If we are not filled with the Holy Spirit, we are unproductive.

It is almost impossible to exaggerate how dependent we are on the Holy Spirit. We are dependent on Him for convicting us of sin before and after our salvation, for giving us understanding of the Gospel, causing us to be born again, empowering us to witness, guiding us

in our prayer life--in fact, for everything. It is no wonder that evil spirits have tried to counterfeit the work of the Holy Spirit and confuse His work.

There is probably no subject in the Bible upon which there is more confusion today than that of being filled with the Holy Spirit. There are many fine Christian people who seem to equate the filling of the Holy Spirit with speaking in tongues or some emotionally ecstatic experience. There are other Christians who because of excesses observed or heard of in this direction have all but eliminated the teaching of the filling of the Holy Spirit. They just do not recognize His importance in their lives.

Satan places two obstacles before men: (1) he tries to keep them from receiving Christ as Savior, and (2) if he fails in this, he then tries to keep men from understanding the importance and work of the Holy Spirit. Once a man is converted, Satan seems to have two different approaches. He tries to get men to associate the filling of the Holy Spirit with emotional excesses, or the opposite swing of the pendulum,, to ignore the Holy Spirit altogether.

One of the false impressions gained from people and not from the Word of God is that there is some special "feeling" when one is filled with the Holy Spirit. Before we examine how to be filled with the Holy Spirit, let us find what the Bible teaches we are to expect when filled with the Holy Spirit. PRAYER is a KEY to Holy Spirit power. Keep the KEY well worn!

It is possible to have the Holy Spirit in us, and yet not be possessed by Him. While sharing a revival at Monahans, Texas, I met Leon James, who had worked on the Yates ranch. This true story about Mr. Yates having oil on his large ranch, yet never drilling for it, illustrates the plight of many Christians.

In west Texas, there is a famous oil field known as the Yates Pool. During the Depression, this field was a sheep ranch owned by a man named Yates. Mr. Yates was not able to make enough money on his ranching operation to pay the principal and interest on the mortgage so he was in danger of losing his ranch. With little money for clothes or food, his family like many others had to live on government subsidy. Day after day, as he grazed his sheep over those rolling west Texas hills, he was no doubt greatly troubled about how he would be able to pay his bills. Then a seismographic crew from an oil company came into the area and told Mr. Yates that there might be oil on his land. They asked permission to drill a wildcat well and he signed a lease contract. At 1,115 feet they struck a huge oil reserve. The first well came in at 80,000 barrels a day. Many subsequent wells were more than twice as large. In fact, 30

years after the discovery, a government test of one of the wells showed that it still had the potential flow of 125,000 barrels of oil a day. And Mr. Yates owned it all. The day he purchased the land he received the oil and mineral rights. Yet he was living on relief. A multimillionaire living in poverty. The problem? He did not know the oil was there. He OWNED IT, but he DID NOT POSSESS IT. I do not know of a better illustration of the Christian life than this. The moment we become children of God through faith in Christ, we become heirs of God, and all of His resources are made available to us. Everything we need--including wisdom, love, power-- to be men and women of God, and to be fruitful witnesses for Christ, is available to us."

Just as it was in the New Testament it is certainly possible for the Holy Spirit not to possess us.

**EXERCISE 40**

**In the New Testament many problems were caused by lack of or sinning against the Holy Spirit.**

**On these lines list the problem and/or the cause of the problem. Then, answer this question--Does this problem ever occur today?**

Acts 7:51 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:5 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:5-9 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 5:4-18 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:13-16 \_\_\_\_\_

I Corinthians 2:9-15 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 8:18-23 \_\_\_\_\_

Jude 1:17-21 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 5:3-11

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Galatians 3:1-5

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Ephesians 4:21-32

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Hebrews 6:1-6

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Hebrews 10:29

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"Sometimes I wonder about Samson. He was one of the weakest men morally and one of the strongest physically of any man who ever lived. He could sleep with a Philistine harlot or carry off the gates and bars of a Philistine city with the same gusto. The tragedy of his life was his association with the temptress, Delilah. He lied to her as she lied to him until finally she wormed out of him the secret of his strength. He was sleeping with his head upon her knees when she cried out, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson." He awakened and said, half to himself, "I will go out as at other times, and shake myself free." But the Book says, "And he did not know the Lord had left him." He was kind of childish in his powerlessness.

It is then that I am reminded of the people of God whom he has called. After many acts of divine daring they become entangled with the affairs of this life. They are asleep in the lap of the world. Finally summoned from their stupor they try to shake themselves free, as at other times in the past, only to discover that God has withdrawn his power. One of the saddest things ever spoken about is these who will come in the time of stress in the last days who will "Hold the form of religion but deny the power of it." Like an embalmed corpse, the life and energy have fled. Like a petrified tree no fruit is borne. They are called men of corrupt minds and counterfeit faith. They are accused of being lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

Without being meddlesome or unjustly accusative, I think we can see the condition described prevalent upon every side today. In our preaching we lash out at the symptoms. We treat the infection by picking away at the pimples. But there is a deep inflammation which cannot be administered to on the surface. It is the result of the loss of the power of the Spirit.

Until it is remedied nothing else will avail. What was the course, what always happens? We have identified the faith with the culture. It happened in Rome. It happened in Russia. It happened in England. Now it has happened in the United States."

by the late Carl Ketcherside

#### EXERCISE 41

Draw a line under the words which speak of *being filled with the Holy Spirit*.

Indicate "*Before*" and "*After*" whether the reference is before or after a person becomes a Christian.

Exodus 35:30-31 \_\_\_\_\_ "Then Moses said to the Israelites, 'See, the LORD has chosen Bezalel, son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts'--"

Micah 3:8 \_\_\_\_\_ "But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression, to Israel his sin."

Luke 1:67 \_\_\_\_\_ "His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied"

Luke 4:1 \_\_\_\_\_ " Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert"

Luke 1:13-15 \_\_\_\_\_ "But the angel said to him: 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth.' "

Acts 2:4 \_\_\_\_\_ "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

Acts 4:8 \_\_\_\_\_ "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: 'Rulers and elders of the people!' "

Acts 4:31 \_\_\_\_\_ "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

Acts 5:3\_\_\_\_\_ "Then Peter said, 'Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?' "

Acts 9:17\_\_\_\_\_ "Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord-- Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here-- has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' " (NIV)

Acts 13:9\_\_\_\_\_ "Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said,..."

Acts 13:52\_\_\_\_\_ "And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. (NIV)

Luke 4:1\_\_\_\_\_ "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert,..."

Acts 6:3\_\_\_\_\_ "Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them."

Acts 6:5\_\_\_\_\_ "This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism."

Acts 7:55\_\_\_\_\_ "But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God."

Acts 11:24\_\_\_\_\_ "He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord."

Ephesians 5:18\_\_\_\_\_ "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

Having received the Holy Spirit when Jesus came into our life, we are in need of keeping His presence replenished.

## EXERCISE 42

In the Scripture, Luke 11:9-13

1. Who is Jesus speaking to? (Note vs.1)\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does He say the Father will do if we ask Him? (Note vs. 13)\_\_\_\_\_

The command of Ephesians 5:18; "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." plus the 12 references in exercise 41 indicating people being (re)filled with the Holy Spirit a-f-t-e-r they came to Jesus" establishes a clear example that we too, need to continue being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Brother Roger Day of Highmore, South Dakota, says-- "A person needs to know the Holy Spirit, and not just about the Holy Spirit. A person needs to know how to hear, love and etc. the precious Holy Spirit. Lots of folks think the Holy Spirit is just a name and that they already have all they need, but they need to know what is really involved and what to expect...and if none of what is to be expected is going on in their lives...then the Holy Spirit is not going on in their lives. For instance, the Holy Spirit will empower us to defeat that nasty habit of foul language...if we continue to swear and feel no check in our Spirit, then the Holy Spirit is more than likely not functioning in our lives....we have quenched Him.

We all need to eat a plate full and keep eating...anyone who does not want to eat...can not blame God if they starve to death!!! love ya....Roger"

It would seem obvious that we would know how to continue being filled with the Holy Spirit, but such was not the case with me at least.

**1 - The three things that are needful** to receiving most of God's blessings are also true of continuing to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus gave us a valuable life principle of *desire* from the "Sermon on the Mount." Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."



Can we assume that everyone knows they must *desire* a closer walk - to be filled with the power and presence of Jesus through the Holy Spirit?

One person said to me, "The Holy Spirit can fill me if He wants to, I am not going to seek Him." Entertain no illusions, the Holy Spirit will NOT fill those who have no desire. The Holy Spirit only walks through doors that are already open. The door of our heart is our WILL and the latch on that door is *desire*. *Desire* is a door latch to every grace God has to offer: salvation, prayer, guidance, victorious living, strength, our daily needs, etc.

James said it with these words--"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." (James 4:8)

David encourages us, "O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You, My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water." (Psalm 63:1)

This simple story impressed on me the need for heartfelt DESIRE.

A seeking soul once went to a religious wise man asking how he could know God better. The teacher took the seeker down to the ocean and they waded out into the water. As they approached shoulder deep water the teacher pushed the disciples' head under and held it there. The lad began to thrash around and flail his arms. The teacher continued to hold him under the waves. Finally he allowed the lad to surface. He came up gasping for breath and said "What is the meaning of this?" The wise teacher said, "Lad, what did you want more than anything else when under the water?" "To breathe air" he replied. "Very well," the teacher said, "and when you desire God as much as you wanted air under the water, you shall have Him."

Now the Bible says, (God) "is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being..." (Acts 17:27b, 28a) Yet, it is forever true that we must o-p-e-n the door of our wills with d-e-s-i-r-e if the Holy Spirit is to fill us.

I had MUCH DESIRED over some 20 years for the Holy Spirit to fill me: but there had been a lack of surrender and the habitual sin problem in my life.  
from my book Faith Alive in Heart, Home, and Church - pg 60

**2 - Surrender** - As common as saying "water is wet" and "ice is cold" is the admonition to Christians to continue *surrendering*. It is to Christians that James and Paul speak: "Submit therefore to God." (James 4:7 ASV)

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice." (Romans 12:1a)

Paul's picture of sacrifice is drawn from the daily temple sacrifices. The lamb's legs were tied together, its chin pulled back so the priest could cut the jugular vein to begin the sacrifice. A bonus for us as we offer ourselves to God is that having died to self, we get to go on living while tied-up on God's altar of service.

Surrender begins when we first receive Christ. However men like Carl Ketcherside, who I shared about in Chapter 1, found a new beginning in inviting Jesus into his life. And across the country many people tell me that in their original confession of Christ before being baptized, they simply answered a preacher's question about Jesus with a "Yes" or "No." I suggest they again confess Christ and renew their surrender with a prayer such as the following:

### **A PRAYER OF SURRENDER**

*Lord, Jesus I believe You are the Son of God who died for my sins and rose again that I may live forever according to the Scriptures.*

*"As far as the East is from the West" so remove my sins from me.*

*I still believe and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Come into my heart and be the Lord of my life.*

*Use me as You choose through all my days and ways to glorify You!*

*In Your Name Jesus - Amen!*

**3 - Ask and receive** is the third principle of staying filled with the Holy Spirit.

It was graduation time and Andy asked his father for a new car as a graduation gift. A graduation party was held and Andy was invited into his father's office. He handed him a nicely wrapped box. Andy opened it to find a Bible with his name inscribed in gold. In anger he blurted out, "I asked for a car and you give me a Bible!" He threw it down on the desk and stomped out. Years of separation followed. Andy moved to a distant state and began a career.

After many years, knowing his father was growing old, he decided to visit him. Before he could begin his trip a telegram came announcing that his father had died. He hastened home as the only child to settle affairs of the estate. When he walked into his father's office, there was the desk and the Bible he had been given on graduation. He picked it up and it fell open to a marked place with this verse underlined:

"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Luke 11:9),

He reads the verse and notes a lump in the back of the Bible. Turning there he discovers a car key and a note--"Son, I love you and here is the new car you asked for."

Jesus continues his teaching in the above reference as He says:

"For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. 'Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will **your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**'" (Luke 11:10-13)

How we might pray is contained in the following words:

*Dear Father, I love You, Praise You and Seek You!*

*Thank You for Jesus and His power and presence through the Holy Spirit.*

*Please forgive me for those times when I have acted as boss of my life.*

*Jesus, I now invite you to take your place on the throne of my heart.*

*Fill me with your Holy Spirit as you have promised in your Word.*

*And, now as an act of faith, I thank You for directing my life and filling me with the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name - Amen*

And, how often shall we ask?

I respond to this posed question by asking a question-What size is your "fuel tank"? For many years I drove a four cylinder Opel station wagon. It had a ten gallon gas tank and when full would take me 300 miles. Now I drive an eight cylinder 454 engine Suburban with a thirty gallon tank and if the terrain and weather are favorable I can go 210 miles on a full tank. I suggest we human beings vary as much or more than automobiles. Because I made a dry run for so many years in NOT knowing to ASK for the Holy Spirit to fill me, I now ask every morning before getting out of bed. Other times during the day when I am weak in body, lack strength in my spirit, need wisdom, etc. I instantly pray--"God, fill me with Your Holy Spirit and thank You in Jesus' Name."

## Three signs of being filled with the Holy Spirit

How can we know that the Holy Spirit is filling us? Being full-filled with the Spirit was a matter of simplicity in the first century; however, today we often complicate the matter. Yet, I suggest three simple signs out of many.

### 1. Spirit filled people are known by their *talk*.

"Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:18-20)

When the Holy Spirit fills us, **Jesus** is on the "throne of our heart" and His Name becomes foremost in our life. The following story indicates the place and purpose of Jesus in our talk.

This is a true story of something that happened just a few years ago at USC. There was a professor of philosophy there who was a deeply committed atheist. His primary goal for one required class was to spend the entire semester attempting to prove that God couldn't exist. His students were always afraid to argue with him because of his impeccable logic. For twenty years, he had taught this class and no one had ever had the courage to go against him. Sure, some had argued in class at times, but no one had ever 'really gone against him' (you'll see what I mean later). Nobody would go against him because he had a reputation.

At the end of every semester, on the last day, he would say to his class of 300 students, "If there is anyone here who still believes in Jesus, stand up!" In twenty years, no one had ever stood up. They knew what he was going to do next. He would say, "because anyone who does believe in God is a fool. If God existed, he could stop this piece of chalk from hitting the ground and breaking. Such a simple task to prove that he is God, and yet he can't do it." and every year, he would drop the chalk onto the tile floor of the classroom and it would shatter into a hundred pieces. All of the students could do nothing but stop and stare. Most of the students were convinced that God couldn't exist. Certainly, a number of Christians had slipped through, but for 20 years, they had been too afraid to stand up.

Well, a few years ago there was a freshman who was enrolled in the class. He was a Christian, and had heard the stories about this professor. He had to take the class because it was one of the required classes for his major and he was afraid. But for three months that semester, he prayed every morning that he would have the courage to stand up no matter what the professor said or what the class thought. Nothing they said or did could ever shatter his faith, he hoped.

Finally the day came. The professor said, "If there is anyone here who still believes in God, stand up!" The professor and the class of 300 people looked at him shocked, as he stood up at the back of the classroom. The professor shouted, "YOU FOOL!! If God existed, he could keep this piece of chalk from breaking when it hit the ground!" He proceeded to drop the chalk, but as he did, it slipped out of his fingers, off his shirt cuff, onto the pleats of his pants, down his leg and off his shoe. As it hit the ground, it simply rolled away, unbroken. The professor's jaw dropped as he stared at the chalk. He looked up at the young man and then ran out of the lecture hall.

The young man who had dared to stand and speak up proceeded to the front of the room and shared his faith in Jesus for the next half hour. Three hundred students stayed and listened as he told of God's love for them and of his power through Jesus. "Yet to all who received HIM, to those who believed in HIS name, HE gave the right to become children of God--children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of GOD." (John 1:12)

### **EXERCISE 43**

How can you and I better include Jesus in our **talk**? Think and write a line by each phrase. Be prepared to discuss this if you are in a study group using this course.

1. Weather \_\_\_\_\_
2. Government \_\_\_\_\_
3. My life \_\_\_\_\_
4. Church where I serve \_\_\_\_\_
5. Politics \_\_\_\_\_
6. My strength/weakness \_\_\_\_\_

7. Money - salary, bills \_\_\_\_\_
8. Our church leaders \_\_\_\_\_
9. My school grades/subjects \_\_\_\_\_
10. My health/sickness \_\_\_\_\_
11. My Sunday school class \_\_\_\_\_
12. Our ball games which we win/lose \_\_\_\_\_
13. Our church services \_\_\_\_\_
14. Gifts I give \_\_\_\_\_
15. My girl/boy friend \_\_\_\_\_

When His Spirit fills us we are able to see Jesus in most things.

## 2. Spirit filled people are known by their *walk*.

"...then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is **by the name of Jesus** Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they **took note that these men had been with Jesus.**" (Acts 4:10-13)

Such is the case with Joshua Day, a high school senior, in Highmore, South Dakota. Josh tries to walk with Jesus in every situation. When his dad left for Missionary Trip #13 in 1998, he agreed to update me for our e-line prayer line. Here is the way it started.

From: Joshua Allen R. Day" <glowworm@jarday.com>  
To: Wilburjohnson@juno.com  
Date: Tue, 17 Nov 1998 06:18:10 -0600  
Subject: Dad in Russia

"Hey Wilbur... I'd be glad to keep you informed. Allow me, to start off, sharing what I know from God's own heart... To start, I thought this to be just another routine trip - it's not. For about a week and a half, or two weeks before Monday (his departure date) I began to get flashes of dad - pictures, and terrible gut feelings pertaining to him. I believe the Lord has given me an intercessory spirit, or perhaps prophetic, or both... all I know is, as long as I can remember - my little flashes and whatnaught have never been wrong... and I could feel something wrong about this trip. On Sunday, the day before he left, he was asking for a lot of prayer, more than he's ever asked for before - and then I knew, I wasn't the only one seeing this trip as more than routine. I don't know if he was not telling us to protect us or what, I mean the family... I can understand that - my sisters are afraid of him being on those planes as it is... in any case, I know his life is in danger... grave danger - and he needs our support. Sunday, the Lord told me my next meal with dad was going to be Thanksgiving dinner... dad gets back that day... the Lord wants me to fast for Him, then... I tested the spirit, and have since Sunday had that message confirmed over and again... last night he told me the loudest - that's when I decided I \*must\* be hearing from God.

Last night, my mother, Jordan, and I went to a Rod Parsley meeting, after dropping dad off at the airport. On the way home, at a quarter past ten last night, the Lord put dad on all three of our hearts. Mother was thinking about him, and how he was up in the air flying... Jordan was thinking about him, and about to ask mom if he was in the air or on the ground, and me... out of nowhere, all of a sudden the Lord put upon my heart to tell mom to stop the vehicle and pray for dad. Perhaps, I should learn to heed the sword before my side is pricked... but, anyway - again, I tested the spirit on that - I just prayed in my spirit, for dad. Then, my heart began to burn and swell - like I've \*never\* felt it do before... I've been in His presence, I've felt the tingling burning in my chest... but never like that... I blurted out for mom to stop the vehicle and pray for dad... then tears came, I began to mourn and pray in the spirit... we all prayed for a few minutes til God gave me the all clear, and we parted... I heard the voice of my dad say "thank you, son" ... I believe it was his spirit thanking me/mine for my obedience... In any case, God clearly has huge plans for my dad's trip to Russia. There is so much resistance to it, you can only imagine what God must have in store. If ever he needed prayer support, it's now... I'll let you know when I hear anything, keep praying for him - heaven knows he needs it."

God bless,  
joshua allen r. day

While preaching a revival at Blanford, Indiana, Imalee and I and Doug Davis, the preacher, went to eat pizza. The bus boy was a fine young man. After observing him for a few moments, I said, "When did you become a Christian?" Startled, he looked up and said, "How do you know I'm a Christian?" I said, "I can tell by your **actions**, your **attitude** and your **speech**." He responded, "Well, it's true I am a Christian." He went on to share when he found Jesus and how as a senior in high school he was trying to live for Jesus. This opened a door for Doug to invite him to come and share his witness and worship with the State Line Christian Church.

#### **EXERCISE 44**

**Check the words which indicate your walk with Jesus.**

*"but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."*

**(II Timothy 2:22 NKJ)**

**Check the items below in which others can see Jesus in your walk.**

- My daily attitude
- My joy
- My love for others
- My language
- My treatment of others
- The things I gaze at
- The magazines-books I read
- The movies-videos I listen to
- The way I drive
- My prayer life
- How I spend my money
- How I use my time
- My hope/ joy
- What I do on Sunday
- My honesty on tests / taxes
- That which makes me happy
- My respect for my parents
- My willingness to stand for the right
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



Our *life long walk* is well illustrated in this life story letter from Brother Chuck Thomas of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

"From my first encounter with the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life, out in southwest Kansas, I can now retrace His work in my life. I am not sure that I was aware at the time, that He had gifted me with teaching, encouragement and mercy. I was aware that my daily schedule became full of appointments to counsel. The counseling continued to increase when we moved to Stillwater, OK, and eventually began to take most of my time. I felt a real need to pursue more education in the field of counseling and the Lord opened the door for me to earn a master degree in counseling at Oklahoma State University. We then moved to Cushing, Oklahoma and the Lord lead me to Valley Hope, where I became a part time chaplain, working with alcohol and drug addicts. The Holy Spirit opened my eyes to the vast field that was white, waiting to be harvested. I soon became aware that He was allowing me to touch more lives in the alcohol and drug rehabilitation program than I had ever experienced in the past. In the first year at Valley Hope I had the opportunity to touch almost 1,000 families. In my preaching experience in the past, I had possibly touched 200 to 300 families. During my work with chemically dependent people I have touched the lives of more than 5,000 families. I believe that He simply expanded my ministry opportunities. He is still in direct control of my life today and I am still touching more and more lives. Since we moved from Cushing to Tulsa, we have been given the opportunity to become part of the Highland Park Christian Church, where our oldest son, Steve is Family Minister. He arranged for anyone who wished to take a test to determine what spiritual gifts he may have. I scored very high in teaching, encouragement and mercy. I believe that is confirmation of the gifts the Holy Spirit gave me and I began to develop, many years ago. I praise the Lord for his Hand in my life and the lives of my family." Chuck

### 3. Spirit filled people are known by their *gawk*.

Give me credit for the fact that *gawk* rhymes with *walk* and *talk*; but beyond this it means to *stare, to gaze at intently*. What is it that catches and holds our attention?

"The lamp of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be *single*, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is the darkness!" (Matthew 6:22,23 ASV)

"But I say to you that whoever *looks* at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell."

(Matthew 5:28,29 NKJ)

The late Elton Trueblood was a Godly man, a penetrating thinker and writer of many books. In one of his books he said--"Acts 3:4-8 is not true today. Yes it was true in the first century, but if religious life today were described in this text, it would have to say: (words in *script* are the changed words, thoughts)

"When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" (*gaze / gawk at us and call us Reverend or Doctor*). So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, *Silver and gold we have. How much do you need?* but what I have I give you. *Stay right here while I call the prayer chain and the benevolence chairman. And, the following seldom ever happens--* "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God." (Acts 3:3-8 NIV)

The late Gary Spencer, minister at Valley Falls, Kansas, was a brother who kept his eyes fixed on Jesus. In one revival we talked about Jesus' statement, "My house will be called a house of prayer." (Mark 11:17) A couple of years later I returned for another revival and tacked above the entrance to the auditorium was a giant sign which read--**THIS IS A HOUSE OF PRAYER.** And with Gary it was far more than a sign. He was a man of prayer and led the Christian church people upward and onward in that order.

## EXERCISE 45

Write in your appropriate words which you focus your attention on.

*"Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." 2 Timothy 2:22*

10 things I focus my attention on are

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

"Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth." (Hosea 6:3)

So, we need to keep on talking, walking and gawking for Jesus just as Michael does in the testimony below as shared by Norma Wilson of Harrison, Arkansas.

Like any good mother, when Karen found out that another baby was on the way, she did what she could to help her three year-old son Michael, prepare for a new sibling. They find out that the new baby was going to be a girl, and day after day, night after night, Michael sang to his sister in his Mommy's tummy.

The pregnancy progressed normally for Karen, an active member of the Panther Creek United Methodist Church in Morristown, Tennessee. Then the labor pains came. Every five minutes ... every minute. But complications arose during delivery. Hours of labor. Would a C-section be required?

Finally, Michael's little sister was born. But she was in serious condition. With sirens howling in the night, the ambulance rushed the infant to the neonatal intensive care unit at St. Mary's Hospital in Knoxville. The days inch by. The little girl gets worse. The pediatric specialist tells the parents, "There is very little hope. Be prepared for the worst." Karen and her husband contact a local cemetery about a burial plot. They had fixed a special room in their home for the new baby - now they plan a funeral. Michael keeps begging his parents to let him see his sister, "I want to sing to her," he says. Week two in intensive care. It looks as if a funeral will come before the week is over. Michael keeps nagging about singing to his sister, but kids are never allowed in intensive care. But Karen makes up her mind. She will take Michael whether they like it or not. If he doesn't see his sister now he may never see her alive. She dresses him in an oversized scrub suit and marches him into the ICU. He looks like a walking laundry basket but the head nurse recognizes him as a child and bellows, "Get that kid out of here now! No children are allowed." The mother rises up strong in Karen, and the usually mild-mannered lady glares steel-eyed into the head nurse's face, her lips a firm line. "He is not leaving until he sings to his sister!" Karen tows Michael to his sister's bedside. He gazes at the tiny infant losing the battle to live. And he begins to sing. In the pure hearted voice of a three year-old, Michael sings: "You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, you make me happy when skies are gray --- " Instantly the baby girl responds. The pulse rate becomes calm and steady. Keep on singing, Michael. "You never know, dear, how much I love you, Please don't take my sunshine away---" The ragged, strained breathing becomes as smooth as a kitten's purr. Keep on singing, Michael. "The other night, dear, as I lay sleeping, I dreamed I held you in my arms..." Michael's little sister relaxes as rest, healing rest, seems to sweep over her. "Keep on singing Michael." Tears conquer the face of the bossy head nurse. Karen glows, "You are my sunshine, my only sunshine. Please don't, take my sunshine away." Funeral plans are scrapped. The next day, the very next day, the little girl is well enough to go home! *Woman's Day* magazine called it "the miracle of a brother's song." The medical staff just called it a miracle. Karen called it a miracle of God's love!

## **The Holy Spirit Sanctifies by**

- 1. Giving Power to Begin Again  
and Power to win in the Battle with Self and Sin**
2. Giving FRUIT as evidence of His Presence
3. Giving us GIFTS to serve Others

## 1. Sanctifying POWER for our Battle with Self and Sin

"But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the **sanctifying work of the Spirit** and through **belief in the truth.**" (II Thessalonians 2:13)

"Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. **His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness** through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that **through them** you may **participate in the divine nature** and **escape the corruption in the world** caused by evil desires." (II Peter 1:2-4)

Rees Howells, a Welsh coal miner, has a vivid testimony of how the Holy Ghost sanctified him. "Nothing is more real to me than the process the Holy Ghost used to sanctify me. The Holy Spirit went on dealing with me, exposing the **root of my nature** which was **self**, and you can only get out of a thing what is in its root. Sin was canceled, and it wasn't sin He was dealing with, it was **self** that thing which came from the Fall. It was not going to take any superficial surrender. He put His finger on each part of my self-life, and I had to decide in cold blood. He could never take a thing away until I gave my consent. Then the moment I gave it, some purging took place (Isaiah 6: 5-7), and I could never touch that thing again. It was not saying I was purged and the thing still having a hold on me: no, it was a breaking, and the Holy Ghost taking control. Day by day the dealing went on. He was seeking to make Jesus the Lord of my life."

Every servant of God has to learn to keep their body in submission, as he goes through necessary disciplines in the early days of his training.

God began to deal with a simple appetite in Rees Howells, the love of food. The Lord called him to a day of prayer and fasting, which was something new to him. He was used to a comfortable home and four good meals a day, and it came as a shock to realize that it meant no dinner and he was agitating about it. And would it only happen once? Supposing God asked him to do it every day!

When midday came he was on his knees in his bedroom, but there was no prayer that next hour. "I didn't know such a lust was in me," he said afterwards. "My agitation was the proof of the grip it had on me. If the thing had no power over me, why did I argue about it?"

At one o'clock his mother called him, and he told her he wasn't taking lunch. But she called again, as a mother would, and urged, "It won't take you long to have it." The goodly aroma from downstairs was too much for him and down he came. But after the meal, when he returned to his room, he couldn't get back into the presence of God. He came face to face with disobedience to the Holy Ghost. "I felt like the man in the garden of Eden," he said. "I went up the mountain and walked miles cursing that 'old man' within me. I felt that if God were to take lunch from me to the end of my days, He would be justified in doing so. To some people this might seem as nothing, but once you are God's channel on no account can you disobey Him, or bring in your own ideas. I wept many tears and it almost seemed as if He would never allow me to come back into His presence, until He said, 'I will forgive you, but you are not to go unpunished. You hold up your hands while you pray from 6 to 9 o'clock.'" (Exodus 17: 11, 12; I Timothy 2: 8.) The closer a person is to God, the more terrible is the least sin seen to be.

He didn't take dinner for many days after that, but spent the hour with God. As he said later "The moment I got victory in it, it wasn't a very big thing to do, it was merely a steppingstone to His next call to me. It is while you still want a thing that you can't get your mind off it. When you have risen above it, He may give it back to YOU, but then you are out of it.

In all these experiences the Lord's purpose was the transformation of His servant. The Holy Ghost took me through grade after grade. The process of changing one's nature (replacing self nature by the Divine nature) is very slow. It was a daily dying and showing forth the life of Christ." from Intecessor For God by Rees Howell (1879-1950) pages 40,41, 100

The areas the Holy Spirit will seek to discipline us in will be as different as the individual. With Rees Howell the disciplines included love of money, ambition, reputation and pride.

**"Then he said to them all: 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.' "** (Luke 9:23)

#### **EXERCISE 46**

**Check the following disciplines the Lord has used in developing your life.**

\_\_\_Discipline of Danger

\_\_\_Discipline of Daring

\_\_\_Discipline of Decision

\_\_\_Discipline of Darkness

\_\_\_Discipline of Decision

\_\_\_Discipline of Defense

___Discipline of Defamation	___Discipline of Declining days	___Discipline of Delay
___Discipline of Deformity	___Discipline of Delight	___Discipline of Desire
___Discipline of Dependability	___Discipline of Desolation	___Discipline of Detail
___Discipline of Desolation	___Discipline of Desperation	___Discipline of Difficulty
___Discipline of Determination	___Discipline of Disappointment	___Discipline of Disability
___Discipline of Discernment	___Discipline of Discontentment	___Discipline of Disdain
___Discipline of Disease	___Discipline of Disillusionment	___Discipline of Doubt
___Discipline of Distinction	___Discipline of Diversion	___Discipline of Duty
___Discipline of Domination	___Discipline of Durability	

Discipline words above are chapter titles from V. Raymond Edman's Book, The Disciplines of Life

One of our great needs in overcoming *self* and the various *subterfuges* of the flesh is that of appetite. I have often said when sharing a revival that I like all kinds of *good food*; but I do not care for sauerkraut since it's spoiled cabbage. Within the next day or two I usually am served a side dish of sauerkraut. At any rate we end up *eating* that which our fleshly appetite dictates.

This simple story illustrates what appetite can do. A young lady stopped by the public library on her way home from work. She quickly checked out a book which had an interesting title. Before her blind date that evening she read a few pages and determined to return the book the next day because she found it *uninteresting, dry material*. As the foursome were eating an evening meal one of them posed the question, "What are you reading?" When it came her turn she volunteered the name of the newly-checked out book. Her date was very interested being a college professor and the author of her book. She volunteered a few glib statements about the title and that she had not really read much of the book. Later in her testimony she said, "I went home that night, picked up the book, and read every word and hung on every line because I had *fallen in love* with the author of the book." That made the *difference!* So it is with us. The business of the Holy Spirit is to assist us in falling in love with the Author of the Bible. And when I allowed the blessed Holy Spirit to fill me, I too, *fell in love* with the Author and reading the Bible, praying, fasting, praising, just living for Jesus became matters of high exhilaration!

"Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires." (Romans 8:5)

**EXERCISE 46-A**

Draw a circle around the number which represents your spiritual appetite *before* you met Jesus and *now*.

BEFORE I ACCEPTED JESUS											AS OF NOW										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	APPETITE FOR SPIRITUAL THINGS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	SET APART FROM WORLD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE DEVIL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	VICTORY OVER HABITUAL SINS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	HUNGER FOR GOD'S WORD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	DESIRE TO FOLLOW GOD'S WORD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

Total before I accepted Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ POSSIBLE 60 TOTAL my life as of NOW \_\_\_\_\_

Sanctification is *progressive* in our lives. Hopefully the above figure which represents your former life, and "as of now" is higher than before you met Jesus and the Holy Spirit convicted you of sin and convinced you to accept Him.

The Apostle Paul said of his own self--"Brethren, I could not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing (I do), forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14)

Our Blessed Holy Spirit assists us in overcoming habitual - besetting sins. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, **let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin** that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." Hebrews 12:1

When I was six years old the devil attacked my flesh by tempting me to steal. Another besetting sin came a few years later. I tried by my own efforts of self-determination, commitment, and prayer to overcome these sins. Victory was short realized and my life became like a roller coaster --up and down, down, then up. But, praise God when the Holy Spirit filled



me. He did somethings I had never been capable of doing--HE REMOVED THE APPETITE FOR THOSE FLESHLY DESIRES.

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world-- the **lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**-- is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." (I John 2:15-17 NKJ)

Satan tempts us in the same three areas where Adam and Eve, and Jesus were tempted as indicated in the chart below:

### AREAS WHERE SATAN TEMPTS

Satan tempts us I John 2:16	Eve and Adam were tempted Genesis 3:1-ff	Jesus was tempted Luke 4:2-ff
<i>BODY - "Lust of the flesh"</i>	<i>"Good for food"</i>	<i>"Turn stones to bread"</i>
<i>SOUL - "Lust of the eyes"</i>	<i>"pleasant to the eyes"</i>	<i>"Worship me....give you kingdoms of the world"</i>
<i>SPIRIT --"Pride of life"</i>	<i>"to make one wise"</i>	<i>"Cast self down from pinnacle of temple"</i>

*from "DEALING WITH DEVIL" seminar by Wilbur Johnson*

### SOME PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR GAINING FREEDOM FROM BESETTING - HABITUAL SINS

**1. DETERMINE TO CHANGE (REPENT)** With the help of God and His Holy Spirit, the individual must make a conscious, deliberate effort to change. This step would include God's teaching on REPENTANCE. Repentance from dead works times past being sufficient for all ungodly deeds, etc., etc. I see repentance as involving 1) Sorrow for past problem sin;

2) purging my life from influences that would draw one astray. Burn, destroy, get rid of all magazines, videos, pictures, or objects that draw one into this activity. Jesus put it this way, "If your right hand offends you, CUT IT OFF." (Matthew 5:30) This also would include avoiding movie houses, video stores, magazine racks, topless bars or private clubs, etc, that may cause one to be tempted. Even when it seems that you are winning the battle, you need to continue to avoid even driving past such business establishments and those parts of town where you might be tempted. If and when you travel, avoid motels that have "dirty movies" as even an option. Much like an alcoholic who recognizes that he/she is an alcoholic and consequently must never touch liquor again lest they fall back into their old ways, so a person beset by lust must avoid all things that draws one's eye. Even the second look at a lovely lady must be avoided if one is really serious about purging this sin from his life. Romans 13:14 says, "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill the lust there of." (See also verse 13). You may recall my message--"How To Be Filled With The Holy Spirit" in the first series. It is contained in my video and on page 34 of my book "Faith Alive in Heart, Home, and Church"--that talks about knowing a Christian by his/her TALK, by his/her WALK, and by his/her GAWK.

## **2. PRAY TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT** (Ephesians 5:18; Acts 4:31)

The first, most important and essential thing is to ask God to fill you daily with His Spirit. This request, regularly and sincerely, may indeed be the easiest step, but it surely is the most essential. Without the Holy Spirits working (URGING & PURGING) we do not have the DESIRE to say no. That is why I include this as the second step. If a person were not a Christian, then the first step would be to put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

**3. FASTING CAN BE HELPFUL.** It must be emphasized, that, as I understand fasting, it is not just refraining from eating food, but must include using that time to speak to God in prayer and to let Him speak to you through His word.

**\*4. CONFESSION NEEDED.** I believe confession and accountability must be included as a third step. YES, confession to GOD--(I John 1:9); but, also confession to a fellow Christian such as we have shared. (James 5:16) And agree with the other person to ask-- *How the battle is going?* Ask and expect to be asked pointedly, expecting an honest response how the brother is doing in this battle. We recognize that God knows all and sees all, but we need, as the little girl told her mother, "I want to see God with some skin and bones." We need each other to challenge, inspire, encourage and discipline us. One of my little known favorite passages of scripture is Proverbs 27:17, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

**5. CLAIM THE BLOOD OF JESUS AS A COVERING** and cleansing for our sin. (Revelation 12:11) Remind Satan that Jesus has forgiven you and that Satan no longer has any right to you or any part of you, body, soul or spirit. (Romans 6:1-6; Ephesians 2:1-7; and 1 Peter 4:1-3). As Jesus said to the woman, so let His statement be our **GOAL**, "Go and sin no more." Finally, always **be strong and of good courage!**"

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. herefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand." (Ephesians 6:10-13)

**(\*) ACCOUNTABILITY---**If you have no one near you whom you can *lean on* in confessing your faults, and to pray with you, then I am willing to serve Jesus and you in this manner. Get in touch preferably by e-mail--[wsjfaith@hit.net](mailto:wsjfaith@hit.net) or Box 875. Ark. City, Kansas 67005

#### **REMEMBER THREE THINGS:**

**1. ACCEPT YOURSELF AS CLEANSED AND FORGIVEN** with the knowledge that "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world," (1 John 4:4), and that we have the inner strength available to resist. See )Philippians 4:13) and (1 Corinthians 10:13).

**2. GOD NEVER GIVES UP ON US.** Fellow human beings sometimes will, but NOT GOD. HE IS ALWAYS with us, desiring HIS BEST for us but often having to settle for something less. VERY IMPORTANT IS the fact that we NOT GIVE UP ON OURSELVES.

**3. GOD LOVES YOU/ME** (.) period. NOT when we sin no more, and NOT as we will be tomorrow, or NOT when we are perfect. BUT, HE LOVES us as WE ARE RIGHT NOW, even when we fail, and YES when we win the VICTORY. HALLELUJAH FOR HIM and HIS LOVE! JESUS LOVES YOU and we do too!-- by the Grace of God---we PRAY FOR YOU.

Matthew Henry makes these excellent comments about the victory of *overcoming* in I John 5:4 "And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith, v. 4. Faith is the cause of victory, the means, the instrument, the spiritual armor and artillery by which we overcome.

1. In and by faith we cleave to Christ, in contempt of, and opposition to, the world.
2. Faith works in and by love to God and Christ, and so withdraws us from the love of the world.
3. Faith sanctifies the heart, and purifies it from those sensual lusts by which the world obtains such sway and dominion over souls.
4. It receives and derives strength from the object of it, the Son of God, for conquering the frowns and flatteries of the world.
5. It obtains by gospel promise a right to the indwelling Spirit of grace, that is greater than he who dwells in the world.
6. It sees an invisible world at hand, with which this world is not worthy to be compared, and into which it tells the soul in which it resides it must be continually prepared to enter; and thereupon,

The apostle concludes that it is the real Christian who are the true conqueror of the world: Who is he then that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? v. 5. It is the world that lies in our way to heaven, and is the great impediment to our entrance there. But he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God believes therein that Jesus Came from God to be the Savior of the world, and powerfully to conduct us from the world to heaven, and to God, who is fully to be enjoyed there. And he who so believes must needs by this faith overcome the world." from Matthew Henry's Commentary

#### **EXERCISE 47**

**Now, without looking back, write down four suggested rules for overcoming habitual sins.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Meditate on your victory of overcoming certain sins and if you are willing, share one of your victories with your class, group, leader.**

## The Holy Spirit Sanctifies by

1. Giving Power to Begin Again  
and Power to win in the Battle with Self and Sin
2. Giving **FRUIT** as evidence of His Presence
3. Giving us **GIFTS** to serve Others

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Galatians 5:22-25 NKJ)

### EXERCISE 48

List all the growth factors that produces an apple on a tree \_\_\_\_\_

---

Any fruit is the wonderful result of several factors. Your list surely included--God, seed, planting, sprout, tree or bush, bud, bloom and finally the fruit. We have little or nothing to do with this whole process. Just so, our spiritual fruit, passes through a like process.

### EXERCISE 49

Draw a circle around the number which represents your spiritual status quo *before you met Jesus* and *now*.

#### BEFORE I ACCEPTED JESUS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**LOVE**  
**JOY**  
**PEACE**  
**GOODNESS**  
**FAITH**  
**LONG SUFFERING**  
**MEEKNESS**  
**GENTLENESS**  
**TEMPERANCE**

#### AS OF NOW

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Total before I accepted Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ **POSSIBLE 90** TOTAL my life as of NOW \_\_\_\_\_

Our title above asserts that *fruit is the evidence of His presence*. Matthew records Jesus' message about the importance of *fruit*.

"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. **By their *fruit* you will recognize them.** Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad *fruit*. A good tree cannot bear bad *fruit*, and a bad tree cannot bear good *fruit*. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, **by their *fruit* you will recognize them.** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' Thus, by their *fruit* you will recognize them." (Matthew 7:15-23)

*Fruit* is a valid test to determine the genuineness of faith. *Works* are not trustworthy. In Jesus' example, a wolf (false prophet) can produce *works*; but good trees, vines, people are known by *good fruit*.

Here is a good rule to go by-- we must prove all things. (I Thessalonians 5:21)

#### EXERCISE 49

Write out the following verses:

1 Thessalonians 5:21 \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 4:1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

"Observe the illustration of this comparison, of the fruit being the discovery of the tree. You cannot always distinguish them by their bark and leaves, nor by the spreading of their boughs, but by their fruits ye shall know them. The fruit is according to the tree. Men may in their professions put a force upon their nature, and contradict their inward principles, but the

stream and bent of their practices will agree with them. Christ insists upon this, the agreeableness between the fruit and the tree, which is such as that. If you know what the tree is, you may know what fruit to expect. Never look to gather grapes from thorns, nor figs from thistles; it is not in their nature to produce such fruits. An apple may be stuck, or a bunch of grapes may hang, upon a thorn; so may a good truth, a good word or action, be found in a bad man, but you may be sure it never grew there." (from Matthew Henry's Commentary)

NOTE again what Jesus said: "Thus, **by their fruit you will recognize them.**" "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' **Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.**" (Matthew 7:20-23)

### EXERCISE 50

Write down three things from Matthew 7:20-23 which Jesus said many will say they did:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Are the above three items *fruits* or *works*? \_\_\_\_\_

The answer is--they are *works*, and herein lies a great danger! The following insight is from the late J. Russell Morse, a missionary to Tibet. "Just as there are certain laws of physics that everyone shares in and must live by such as the *Law of gravity*, *Law of force* and the *Law of thermodynamics*; just so, there are *spiritual laws* that we all share in automatically, too. We all have the *gift of life* from God and He sustains that life. It is also true that there are certain laws of power we can "plug into." Out in Tibet we preached *tithing* and some of the pagans began to practice it. They were blessed just as Malachi 3:10 promises. Although not Christians, they were richly blessed because they *plugged into God's power source*. Pharaoh's "Magic men" did the same thing with the first three of the Ten Plagues in Exodus 7. In Matthew 7:22 these people *plugged into God's power* and did *many good works*, yet Jesus in verse 23 said "I never knew you, Away from me, you evildoers." *Fruits* come from the Holy Spirit, but *works* can be counterfeited. So, do NOT follow men because of their *works*, rather observe their *fruits*."

One final word of caution,

**EXERCISE 51**

Write "YES" or "NO" after each fruit named in Galatians 5:22-25 which CAN be counterfeited.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is

love-

joy-

peace-

longsuffering-

kindness-

goodness-

faithfulness,

gentleness-

self-control-

Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (NKJ)

Those who have studied the Scripture and the Mind of the Lord assert that *LOVE* is the only fruit which cannot be counterfeited. This may be well be the reason Jesus had so much to say about *LOVE*. 62 times Jesus talks about *love* in the Gospels, and taking their cue from Him the writers of the 23 other New Testament books speak of *love* 168 times.

**EXERCISE 52**

Write down I Corinthians 13:13

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I attended a New Year's "Watch Party" at which we were asked to write down a resolution for the New Year. One young man announced--"I resolve to love everybody this year even if it kills me." We smile but what he resolved is impossible. Love or any of the fruits are not arrived at through self determination but are produced as *fruit* of the Spirit. We receive them by *abiding in the Vine* as Jesus said:



### EXERCISE 53

Underline the word abide in the following verses.

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love." (John 15:1-9 NKJ)

### EXERCISE 54

Let us close this section on the Holy Spirit Consecrating (setting us apart) with this meaningful meditation. Spend some time alone reading this meditation and praying about your daily walk with Jesus.

As the Lord sifts our soul through the vicissitudes the Holy Spirit is sanctifying/consecrating us for this life and that Life yet to be with eternal dimensions.

"Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish? No, they answered.

He said, Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some. When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, It is the Lord! As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, It is the Lord, he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.

When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught."

Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.

Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Again Jesus said, "Simon, son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

The third time he said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." (John 21:4-21)

## \* A LOVE STORY \*

One day, I woke early in the morning to watch the sunrise.

Ah, the beauty of God's creation is beyond description.

As I watched, I praised God for His beautiful work.

As I sat there, I felt the Lord's presence with me.

He asked me, "Do you love me?"

I answered, "Of course, God! You are my Lord and Saviour!"

Then He asked,

"If you were physically handicapped, would you still love me?"

I was perplexed. I looked down upon my arms, legs and the rest of my body and wondered how many things I wouldn't be able to do, the things that I took for granted.

And I answered, "It would be tough Lord, but I would still love You."

Then the Lord said,  
"If you were blind, would you still love my creation?"  
How could I love something without being able to see it?  
Then I thought of all the blind people in the world and how many of them still loved God  
and His creation.

So I answered, "Its hard to think of it, but I would still love you."

The Lord then asked me,  
If you were deaf, would you still listen to my word?"  
How could I listen to anything being deaf?  
Then I understood. Listening to God's Word is not merely using our ears, but our hearts.  
I answered, "It would be tough, but I would still listen to Your word."

The Lord then asked,  
If you were mute, would you still praise My Name?"  
How could I praise without a voice?  
Then it occurred to me: God wants us to sing from our very heart and soul. It never  
matters what we sound like. And praising God is not always with a song, but when we are  
persecuted, we give God praise with our words of thanks.

So I answered, "Though I could not physically sing, I would still praise Your Name."

And the Lord asked, "Do you really love Me?"  
With courage and a strong conviction, I answered boldly,  
"Yes Lord! I love You because You are the One and true God!"

I thought I had answered well, but God asked,  
THEN WHY DO YOU SIN?"

I answered, "Because I am only human. I am not perfect."  
"THEN WHY IN TIMES OF PEACE DO YOU STRAY THE FURTHEST?  
WHY ONLY IN TIMES OF TROUBLE DO YOU PRAY EARNESTLY?"

No answers. Only tears.

The Lord continued; "Why only sing at fellowships and retreats? Why seek Me only in  
times of worship? Why ask things so selfishly? Why ask things so unfaithfully?"

The tears continued to roll down my cheeks.

Why are you ashamed of Me? Why are you not spreading the good news? Why in times of persecution, you cry to others when I offer My shoulder to cry on? Why make excuses when I give you opportunities to serve in My Name?"

I tried to answer, but there was no answer to give.

You are blessed with life. I made you not to throw this gift away. I have blessed you with talents to serve Me, but you continue to turn away. I have revealed My Word to you, but you do not gain in knowledge. I have spoken to you but your ears were closed. I have shown My blessings to you, but your eyes were turned away. I have sent you servants, but you sat idly by as they were pushed away. I have heard your prayers and I have answered them all."

"DO YOU TRULY LOVE ME?"

I could not answer. How could I? I was embarrassed beyond belief. I had no excuse. What could I say to this? When my heart had cried out and the tears had flowed, I said, "Please forgive me Lord. I am unworthy to be Your child."

The Lord answered, "That is My Grace, My child."

I asked, " Then why do you continue to forgive me? Why do You love me so?"

The Lord answered,

Because you are My creation. You are my child.

I will never abandon you.

When you cry, I will have compassion and cry with you.

When you shout with joy, I will laugh with you.

When you are down, I will encourage you.

When you fall, I will raise you up.

When you are tired, I will carry you.

I will be with you till the end of days, and I will love you forever."

Never had I cried so hard before. How could I have been so cold? How could I have hurt God as I had done?

I asked God, "How much do You love me?"  
The Lord stretched out His arms, and I saw His  
nail-pierced hands. I bowed down at the feet of Christ,  
my Saviour. And love overflowed my heart, I truly prayed.

Author Unknown.

Shared by Mrs. Philip (Deb) Messer, Goddard, Kansas

### **The Holy Spirit Sanctifies by**

1. Giving Power to Begin Again  
and Power to win in the Battle with Self and Sin
2. Giving FRUIT as evidence of His Presence
3. Giving us GIFTS to serve Others

#### **EXERCISE 55**

**This exercise illustrates the matter of "blind spots" in our vision. Sometimes we have "blind spots" in relation to our spiritual gifts. We may mistake "talents" for "gifts" or simply fail to realize what our gifts are.**

**Read this sentence: FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF YEARS.**

Now count aloud the F's in the sentence. Count them ONLY ONCE: do not go back and count them again. See below...

#### **ANSWER:**

There are six F's in the sentence. One of average intelligence finds three of them. If you spotted four, you're above average. If you got five, you can rejoice. If you caught six, you are a genius.

There is no catch. Many people forget the "OF'S." The human brain tends to see them as Vs and not Fs.

## **GIFTS DEFINED and HAZARDS**

**Biggest Hazard** for any of the gifts is "Gift Projection." This means our giftedness makes our motivations and abilities seem so important to us and so natural that we tend to think others should feel the same way we do and be able to do the same things we do.

### **EXERCISE 56**

**After each gift definition and the listing of hazards, please list a Bible example and a contemporary example from your own life, church or the brotherhood.**

## **GIFTS for SERVING**

**GIFT OF SHOWING MERCY:** The ability to manifest practical, compassionate, cheerful love toward suffering members of the body of Christ. To identify with the feelings of those in distress and the ability to meet their needs.

### **Hazards -- \***

- \* Pride in ability to empathize and resenting those who are not sensitive to people.
- \* Failure to be firm with those who have been hurt. Build up sense of self pity in people.
- \* Being guided by emotion rather than logic.
- \* Overlooking grave spiritual failures and mistaking indulgence for love. The opposite end from the prophet. The mercy makes excuses and tends to condone the sin.
- \* Tends to be prepared to accept peace at any price.
- \* Tends to conflict with other gifted people more than others because they see almost everything in shades of gray and really doesn't care that the suffering may be caused by sin. All they know is that there is a hurting person in need of love and ministry, not judgment. Gifted people need each other to balance each other, and if they fail to understand that and recognize the lubricating nature of love, I Corinthians 13, they will be in constant conflict.

Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child. The winner was a four-year-old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentlemen's yard, climbed onto his lap, and

just sat there. When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

#1) NAME of the gift the child exercised \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift from your life or church \_\_\_\_\_

**GIFT OF GIVING:** Motivation to entrust assets to others for the furtherance of the ministry.

The God-given ability, perhaps to earn, certainly to give money for the progress of God's work with such care and cheer that the recipients are fortified.

**Hazards -- \***

\* Pride

\* Danger of measuring spiritual success by material assets.

\* Overlooking long range spiritual goals in order to meet immediate material needs (is tempted to give without looking into situation carefully enough)

\* Temptation to buy influence (threaten to withdraw support). Temptation to use money as a weapon or a means of manipulation.

EXAMPLE of this gift in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift from your life or church \_\_\_\_\_

**GIFT OF HELPS:** This is the Spirit-given ability to serve the church in any supporting role, usually temporal, though sometimes spiritual. The gift enables one to serve joyfully and diligently wherever and whenever required. It is not for helping the poor, sick, aged, orphans and widows (which is really the gift of showing mercy), but for lending a hand wherever it will release other workers in their primary spiritual Ministries, and to do it in such a way that it strengthens and heartens.

**Hazards -- \***

\* Neglecting home responsibilities.

\* Pride in good works.

A unique example of this gift is told in the following true story.

She is a woman of the Kansas prairie, working long and hard beside her husband, "Preach" tilling the soil, and raising a fine family of two sons and one daughter.

I came to know her best when she arrived at our end of the State for a thirty day stay to house sit, tend garden and ride herd on two dogs and two cats. The month of June stretched into August, then September and October. The philosophy of the Lady of the Prairie is simply said "I live by the side of the road of life and people's needs are my concern."

The immediate need in Winfield was dictated by her daughter-in-law who fell while rafting in the Grand Canyon. She broke her back in two places causing paralysis from the upper waist down. This faithful mother-in-law full of mercy, love and help stayed on. The planned one month turned into two, three, four, five, six. Simply she said, "I stay as long as there is a need."

Late Spring had turned to Summer, then when Fall was leaning toward Winter, and her daughter-in-law had learned to live in a wheel chair and drive a hand controlled van. This wonderful lady returned to her home on the Kansas prairie near Hugoton.

I salute this Lady of the Prairie as a "Queen of Helps to Souls in Need." I know both of them well for the daughter-in-law is my daughter, Dr. Teresa Johnson and the "Queen of Helps, Mercy and Love" is the dedicated **June Flummerfelt**.

#2) NAME of the gift June Flummerfelt exercised \_\_\_\_\_  
EXAMPLE of this gift from your life or church \_\_\_\_\_

**GIFT OF GIVING:** Motivation to demonstrate love by meeting practical needs. Carrying out the spirit of love by serving others in Jesus' Name.

#### **Hazards -- \***

- \* Neglecting home responsibilities.
- \* Pride in good works.
- \* Danger of being pushy...of anticipating a person's need before the person is aware of it.
- \* May become bitter because sufficient appreciation has not been shown for his gifts.
- \* Emphasis on practical things to the exclusion of spiritual things.
- \* Sometimes impatient with "spiritual people." (note: Mary & Martha)
- \* Sometimes more concerned with meeting material needs than spiritual needs.

EXAMPLE of this gift in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_  
EXAMPLE of this gift from your life or church \_\_\_\_\_



**GIFT OF HOSPITALITY:** That supernatural ability to open ones' house with a warm welcome to strangers or friends in need of food and lodging.

**Hazards -- \***

\* Neglecting home responsibilities.

\* Pride in good works.

Rees Howells (1879-1950), the Welsh coal miner, tells of a meaningful ministry among the needy. He describes it, "Not long after this, and only a few months after he had started the ministry in the village, the Lord gave him a further commission, He laid on him the burden of the tramps. The many men who were to be found in that district wandering homeless and jobless from place to place. They were to give a chance to every tramp that came to the mission. It was to be a practical lesson of what divine love is towards an undeserving sinner. The Spirit made plain what they were to do: to give each man a new suit of work clothes, find him lodgings and work, and pay his board until he drew his first pay. "We were called to put Isaiah 58 into practice," said Mr. Howells. "Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter-- when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard." (Isaiah 58:7,8)

"When we first started to help them:" Rees said, "we were afraid too many would come in the same fortnight, and that we could not provide for them; and while there was fear, there was inward struggle. We soon found out that we could not provide and that was just the place the Lord wanted us to come. Then we had to find out that God would provide if we would trust Him. The Holy Ghost allowed us to be failures once or twice, so we quit struggling and trying to do it ourselves. We clung to God's promises, pleading with Him to come to our rescue, and He never failed us." from Rees Howells' Intercessor, pgs 58-65

In our ministry of many years at Minneola, Kansas, we experienced similar lessons in a faith walk of helping people. The "tramps" began to come one by one and sometimes by the carload. We helped them one by one in Jesus' Name according to their needs. My wife, Imalee, was a key person in this whole scenario, always with a open heart to set one more place at the meal table or make room for overnight guests. A tuned in 'Kitchen Committee' of Marie Moody, Irene Deniston, Katy Johnson and Carmalee Beebe were most willing to help. This attitude of help the helpless spread throughout the church and youth leaders Sharon Kennedy, Lillie Houser, Irene Grimmatt and Juanita Morain enlisted their youth groups to assist in ministering to

the needs within the town and church in a variety of ways. Morris Kennedy enlisted the men to take tons of food to the Kiamichi Mountain Missionaries of Oklahoma for many years. Some funds were available through the elders and deacons but the needs exceeded the funds available. We began to present these impossible needs to the Lord. When a need was present, but most often just prior, cash in an unmarked envelope arrived in the mail. Sometimes a twenty dollar bill or two and once a hundred. The need dictated the amount. Not until many years later as I was visiting the Postmaster Elwood Marshall, a lady came in and dropped an envelope in the mail slot. Postmaster Marshall reached over, picked up the letter, postmarked it and said, "Preacher here is a 'special delivery' letter for you." I opened the unmarked letter and a twenty dollar bill fell out. The mystery saint was Irene Grimmett. Strangely after ten years the "highway-tramps" ceased to come our way, and we moved on to the Faith Alive traveling revival ministry.

#3)NAME of the gift Rees Howells exercised \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift from your life or church \_\_\_\_\_

## **GIFTS for TEACHING**

**GIFT OF TEACHING:** To search out and to validate already existing truth. This is the supernatural ability to explain clearly and apply effectively the truth of the Word of God. Every believer is to be a teacher in his own quiet, confined way, even if he doesn't possess the gift to teach in formal situations.

### **Hazards -- \***

- \* Pride of knowledge
- \* More interested in the research than in the student.
- \* To be so concerned about details that a person misses the broad spectrum of the picture.
- \* Danger of believing that spiritual truth can be discerned by the intellect.
- \* Becoming so involved in study that the gaining of knowledge becomes an end of itself instead of the impartation being the end.
- \* Tends to be intolerant of those who do not dig deep enough in study and therefore often sees shallowness in other's presentations.

From lectures and the threads of everyday life, Professor Howard Hayes of Midwest Christian College of Oklahoma City and now of Tennessee imparted academic lessons and life to me--->

>He taught me the discipline of study!

>The discipline of thinking/reasoning was so evident in Bro. Hayes that I picked it up!

>Studying Scripture in its context was passed along!

> Observing Brother Hayes taught me the importance of the discipline of listening!

>The disciplines which are needful for a good revival was shared by Brother Hayes in a revival he preached for me at the Ripley, Oklahoma Christian Church in 1952.

>The disciplines of planning and prayer in a revival meeting plus having adequate publicity for a revival has blessed me much!

>The importance of public school assemblies during a revival and how to do it was a BIG blessing. I still remember a rope trick with spiritual application by Brother Hayes used at the school. I begged him to show me how to do it, and have used it hundreds of times in VBS, camps, youth meetings, Sunday School classes, revivals, etc. across the past 46 years.

>The importance of Bible messages with contemporary tied in. I still remember the message he spoke at the school--"The Danger of Flying Too Low", about an airplane incident in New York City in which a plane had nicked the corner of the Empire State Building. The problem was diagnosed as --plane flying at too low an elevation. Scripture he used was from Romans.

>The life discipline of living adequately but frugally which Howard and Florence conveyed to all who observed their lives. .... The discipline of love (sometimes tough love) they practiced! .... I bless them for their discipline of forgiveness and kindness which has stuck with me.

>All of the above coupled with their attitude of "MAKE DO! DEAL WITH THE WORST -- HOPE FOR THE BEST" has enriched me MUCH!

#4) NAME of the gift Bro. Hayes exercised \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift from your life or church \_\_\_\_\_

**GIFT of WORD OF KNOWLEDGE:** To have available important information needed for any specific situation, especially scriptural information.

Knowledge differs from wisdom. Knowledge is information; wisdom is the proper use of information to achieve proper ends. The gift of knowledge is the ability to search, systematize

and summarize the teachings of the Word of God, a supernatural ability to acquire deep insight into divine truth that is not discoverable by human reason. The gift of wisdom is the ability to relate those insights to the needs and problems of life.

A Word of Knowledge blessed my soul when our daughter, Lisa, who was 18 years of age at the time. She had an appointment with Dr. Menninger of the famed "Menninger Clinic" of Topeka, Kansas.

After walking into Dr. Menninger's office, and introduction he asked her to be seated in a chair close to his desk. She immediately sensed that he had a genuine interest in her and she looked directly at him with a smile. He handed her a lead writing pencil. Lisa reached out and took hold of the pencil placing it between her three fingers and thumb as any of us would do. Dr. Menninger smiled, and at that point began a long dissertation by saying, *"Lisa, you have told me a book full by the way you took my pencil. You're not on an animal level. A monkey would have clutched the pencil, but you received it like an intelligent human being, which you are."* He continued to talk for many minutes and my spirit assured me his words were a Word of Knowledge. His words encouraged Lisa and us, and warmed our hearts across the years when other doctors and psychiatrists floundered in their diagnoses.

#### **Hazards -- \***

- \* Pride in knowledge.
- \* Impatient with less knowledge.
- \* May mistake knowledge for wisdom.
- \* May seek after knowledge as an end in itself and overlook the needs to which it should be applied.

Here is a life story which illustrates this Gift of the Word of Knowledge.

Something happened near Christmas that was a word of knowledge to my soul. A pickup pulled up in front of the house and a man got out carrying a poinsettia. Imalee and I started guessing as to who? A lady got out which confused our guessing even more. They rang the door bell and Imalee said to the man, "Come in Cliff." She was right! It was Cliff and Virginia Johnson from Wichita who we had met 22 years earlier in Guthrie, Oklahoma, at a revival there. They have sent gifts three or four times every year. We chatted and I offered to take them out to supper. But they had come down to visit a cousin and had a supper appointment with reservations at a local motel. They left the poinsettia with a Christmas card and a fifty dollar check. I insisted they see the house but being our age they were not given to climbing stairs unless it was an absolute necessity. They toured the downstairs and Imalee and Virginia came

back into the living room. Cliff and I walked straight on through to the vestibule. Then, out of the clear blue sky Cliff said, "You know something has been bothering me for many months. I dream about it and wake up thinking, *"Who will take care of Virginia if I go first? But, recently the answer came to me and it was this--GOD HAS TAKEN CARE OF US ALL THESE YEARS AND BEEN VERY GOOD TO US. IF I GO FIRST HE WILL TAKE CARE OF VIRGINIA AND IF SHE GOES FIRST, HE'S GOT ME IN HIS HANDS, TOO!"* I told Cliff that strangely I, too, been wrestling with the same proposition for some time. He responded--*"WELL, GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF US!"* That warmed my heart very, very good, like a wood fire in a fireplace on a cold winter day. I'll remember that the rest of my days.

#5) NAME of the gift Bro. Cliff Johnson exercised \_\_\_\_\_  
EXAMPLE of this gift in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_  
EXAMPLE of this gift from your life or church \_\_\_\_\_

**GIFT OF EXHORTATION - ENCOURAGEMENT:** Motivation to stimulate the faith of others to specific action in spiritual development (either groups or individuals).

Whenever I'm disappointed with my spot in my life, I stop and think about little Jamie Scott. Jamie was trying out for a part in a school play. His mother told me that he'd set his heart on being in it, though she feared he would not be chosen. On the day the parts were awarded, I went with her to collect him after school. "Guess what Mom," he shouted, and then he said these words that will remain a lesson to me: "I've been chosen to clap and cheer."

**Hazards -- \***

- \* Pride of results.
- \* Easily discouraged and depressed.
- \* Tends to manipulate others for personal gain.
- \* Tends to spend too much time personally with people who do not want lasting results.
- \* Tendency to be indiscreet in sharing results, it becomes an exhibition of spiritual pride.

My phone rang on a cloudy winter afternoon just after Christmas and I waited for Imalee to take the call. Doyle Terry of Zephyrhills, Florida, was calling to say: *"The Bible says to encourage one another and we're calling to say God loves You! We love you and rejoice that even though you are now tied down a bit, yet you are being used by God across this Nation. Your Lamplighter with the 23rd Psalm meditation came today, and as we meditated upon all the*

*trials you have been through, and yet you are able to write this 23rd Psalm meditation of acceptance, we wept and thanked God for you and His Word. You'll remember we first met in a revival over 16 years ago at Harper, Kansas, and you shared from I Thessalonians 5:18*

*16 Be joyful always;*

*17 pray continually;*

*18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

*We believed it and now we practice it! I've been in excruciating pain when it was time for a service to start and we were to sing and preach, and simply appealed to the Lord with--'Thank you Lord for this pain, and it went away!'"*

The Singing Terrys are a team for Jesus who traverse the country singing and speaking for the Lord.

#6) NAME of the gift Dr. Menninger exercised \_\_\_\_\_

NAME of the gift Bro. Terry exercised \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift from your life or church \_\_\_\_\_

## **Gifts for LEADING**

**GIFT OF ADMINISTRATION / RULING:** The Spirit-given ability to preside, govern, plan, organize and administer with wisdom, fairness, example, humility, service, confidence, ease and efficiency.

### **Hazards -- \***

\* Pride in power and authority.

\* Using people to achieve his needs instead of meeting their needs.

\* Danger in overlooking major character weaknesses in people who are useful to meeting his goals.

\* Cannot tolerate fools gladly.

\* Can develop a power complex.

#7)EXAMPLE of this gift in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift from your life or church \_\_\_\_\_

**GIFT OF DISCERNING:** To discern between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Though every believer is responsible for discerning the spirits, some have a particular power to do so—a special ability to distinguish between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. A person with the gift of discernment can discriminate between that which is raised up by God and that which pretends to be. He can spot a phony, unmask Satan's trickery, detect erroneous teachings and ferret out false teachers.

**Hazards -- \***

- \* May mistake lack of faith for spiritual discernment of error.
- \* Pride in ability to point out falseness.

Discernment of demons from a summer youth conference as reported by a director of Faith Alive days ministry.

"Brother Wilbur:

Simply AMAZING !!!!! That would summarize the youth conference and the whole week. Each evening after the Praise and Preaching time, the church groups gathered to go over the days' events. (Bill) started earlier in the week with each person sharing their testimony. We had kids who shared they had been taking drugs, including smoking marijuana. One girl shared of a night when she and some friends sneaked out of her house met some boys, got drunk and ended up losing her virginity which she said was the most dreadful experience that she had ever had and that she was greatly sorry she had ever done it. Another boy said that his sister was the target of a gang and that they had people driving by and shooting into their house. One boy said that he had been involved with the occult and satan worship and that he was trying to get out. Each story brought a flow of tears and a separate prayer time. I hope that the confessions will be accompanied by true repentance. Friday night the boy that had been in the occult was baptized before our small group time. That is when a startling thing happened. We were discussing the decisions that were made. The young man had his shirt off because it was wet from the baptism and we were on couches and chairs inside. As the discussions continued, stripe-like scars started to appear on his chest and stomach and he began to scream out in pain. (Bill) took the medical approach and asked if he was allergic to something or ever experienced hives. Several commented that the stripes had not been there when we sat down. We discerned that there were evil spirits involved, so we gathered and prayed and pleaded for the blood of Jesus to cover us and that the evil spirits would depart in Jesus' name. The stripes lightened, but did not totally disappear. The screaming in pain dissipated to an occasional cringe. Afterwards, the adult sponsors discussed what had happened with a bit of scepticism, but we could not explain the

marks. (Bill) felt convicted that the incident was for real and spent time directly with the young man in Bible study and prayer. (Fred) told him that he had been told that if any one tried to get out of the Occult group, that the "demons" would burrow under the skin and try to seal themselves in. I had never heard that part before, but the incident did match a lot of what I had heard about demon possession. Oh, I failed to mention, that (Bill) had the young man repeat phrases after him which included naming the name of JESUS and claiming victory through the blood of Jesus. (Fred) was reluctant at first to say the name of Jesus, but with much persuasion was able to say Jesus. I came home with (James), but I was told there were further incidents on the bus ride home. (Bill) had the kids fast and pray. I guess there was a reappearance of the "stripes/scars" and that (Fred) actually passed out and collapsed on the bus.

Wilbur, I believe this is a real occurrence and I am not sure what else we could/should have done. (Fred) had never told his parents that he was in the occult group and I'm sure that they will question the event. (Bill) was going to go back and discuss the events with them, but I don't know how they responded. I believe that (Fred) must stand by his decision, destroy any items that he may still have that were any way involved with the occult worship and find support to help him through this. I would be interested in any other comments or suggestions that you might have. (Names in parenthesis are substituted names.)

By for now, and may God bless.

In Christian Love,"

Larry Wright

### **REPLY by Wilbur Johnson**

This "demon" case is most significant. NO, I have never heard of demons "hiding out under skin burrows-welts or whatever; but, most anything is possible when the devil is involved. Sounds to me like you all did what you could and what you should.

On that same Friday I got a phone call from a young man (c.30 years of age) to come to his house as he needed help. I have known him several years as he cuts meat at Country Mart and had been to his house about a year ago. Last Friday when I visited him he complained of a "demon of paranoia." I discerned that there was demonic activity in his life and I spent about two hours praying with him, confessing Scripture and he confessed many sins and prayed which brought relief. He is an avid (fetish) jogger believing God has called him to run and pray. He attends Calvary Chapel, reads his Bible and prays. Strange case to say the least.

#8) NAME of the gifts Youth Leaders exercised \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift from your life or church \_\_\_\_\_



**GIFT OF WORD OF WISDOM:** To apply knowledge or insights to situations in a practical way.

**Hazards -- \***

- \* Cannot tolerate fools gladly.
- \* Pride in his ability to perceive answers to complex problems.
- \* Easily offended when advice not followed.
- \* May be tempted to use the gift to get his own way or withhold wisdom as punishment.

Uncertain of what "door" to walk through in serving the Lord, I needed wisdom from on High. At the time, we had ministered at Minneola, Kansas, for nine years and were considering if it was time to move. The pulpit of the Central Christian Church in Dodge City, Kansas, was open and I was contemplating the Lord's Will for us in relation to that. So, the night before, on my prayer walk, I asked the Lord this question-"HOW LONG SHOULD WE STAY IN ONE PLACE?" No one else knew of my prayer query.

The next day was the Fourth of July. We went to the Wright Park at Dodge City for an outing. When we arrived at 11:30 a.m. there was a group of "Jesus People" having a rally. You may remember these were common in the sixties and seventies as a facet of "The Jesus Movement." I walked over to the informal gathering of young people and they were seeking someone to lead in a closing prayer. Two guys volunteered and prayed the closing prayer. Just as they finished, the leader announced he had a message from the Lord for someone in the group. This is what he said "Someone here wants to know how long they should minister in one place?" The answer is--"*Sometimes you must stay in one place for ten years or more to accomplish in one day what I want done.*" The leader said the person the message was for could acknowledge it or remain silent. Much startled and amazed I chose the silent response and sat down to ponder this answer. The answer was right! We stayed and the tenth year after that plus three more were days of high victory. --by Wilbur Johnson--

#9) NAME of the GIFT the unknown brother exercised \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift from your life or church \_\_\_\_\_

**GIFT of PROPHECY:** Motivation to reveal unrighteous motives by proclaiming God's truth. Not foretelling, but forth telling. Since God's revelation has been finished, and the Bible is our all-sufficient guide today, the gift of prophecy is now identified with proclamation based on God's Word. The gift of prophecy does not involve new revelation but a clearer understanding or

amplification of already-given truth. Prophecy applies the Scripture to the present scene. So we might define the gift of prophecy as the Spirit given ability to proclaim the written Word of God with clarity and to apply it to a particular situation with a view to correction or edification.

**Hazards:**

- \* Spiritual Pride. May consider himself more righteous than others.
- \* Tends to depend on his own ability in his presentation.
- \* Tends to be judgmental, identifying sin with the individual.
- \* Tends to have a sharp tongue without love.
- \* Knows the right thing to say, but chooses the wrong time to say it.

#10) EXAMPLE of this gift in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_  
EXAMPLE of this gift from your life or church \_\_\_\_\_

**THE APOSTOLIC GIFT:** Officially, the apostolic ended with the apostles; unofficially, the apostolic gift persists to our day as the missionary gift. The word "missionary" covers a broad meaning, sometimes losing significance by including almost anyone in Christian service or with Christian concern. More accurately from the Greek, though, a missionary can be defined as "one sent to minister transculturally with church-planting goals."

The missionary is sent from, as opposed to being called to, a particular church. Rather than being invited to a certain area, he is ordered (commissioned) out of his original homeland.

Ability to serve in another culture is part of the missionary gift.

The missionary must minister with evangelistic goals. Full-orbed evangelism includes conversion, baptism, growth and the organized fellowship; in other words, church planting.

#11) EXAMPLE of this gift in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_  
EXAMPLE of this gift from your life or church \_\_\_\_\_

**GIFT OF SHEPHERDING:** Like the shepherd who guides, grazes and guards his flock, this gift involves guiding young believers into paths of righteousness, steering them toward spiritual nourishment, and protecting them from hostile influences. If more Christians would guide, feed and guard fellow believers, not so much counseling would have to be done by church staff. This not only eliminates much wear and tear on the official pastor, but also meets needs that otherwise might be ignored.

## Hazards:

- \* Pride in power and authority.
- \* Resentment when the sheep do not follow, respect or appreciate them.
- \* Using people to achieve his needs instead of meeting their needs.
- \* Danger in overlooking major character weaknesses in people who are useful to him in meeting his goals.
- \* Tendency to get caught up in 'Churchanity' and neglect the sheep.
- \* Easy for shepherd to gossip, breach confidentiality.
- \* Cannot tolerate fools gladly.
- \* Can develop a power complex. Abuse of power.

#12) EXAMPLE of this gift in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_  
EXAMPLE of this gift from your life or church \_\_\_\_\_

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**GIFT OF EVANGELISM:** Though all believers are to witness, the gift of evangelism is a special ability to proclaim the Good News of salvation effectively so that people respond to the claims of Christ in conversion and in discipleship.

## Hazards -- \*

- \* Temptation to draw followers after themselves,
- \* Use of influence for personal gain.
- \* Temptation to not see that new converts are properly discipled which is a part of the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19,20.
- \* Pride
- \* Gift projection (See introduction at beginning of gift section).

Was Sam Walton, owner of the Wal-Mart stores a Christian? Is Mr. Wall of the giant "WALL DRUG STORE" in the Black Hills of South Dakota saved? When I met these two men the Spirit impressed me to find out.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation." II Corinthians 5:17-19

While preaching a revival at Blanford, Indiana, Imalee and I, and preacher Doug Davis, went to eat pizza. The bus boy was a fine young man. After observing his speech and actions for a few moments, I said to him, "When did you become a Christian?" Startled, he looked up and said, "How do you know I'm a Christian?" I said, "I can tell by your actions, your attitude and your speech." He responded, "Well, it's true I am a Christian." He went on to share when he found Jesus and how as a senior in high school he was trying to live for Jesus. This opened a door for Doug Davis to interject an invitation for him to come and share his witness and worship with the State Line Christian Church.

Wherever there are people, there are opportunities to encourage souls on the road of life.

#13) NAME OF GIFT exercised in the above examples \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift from your life or church \_\_\_\_\_

Be prepared to share with your class/group what method YOU use in winning souls.

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**GIFT OF FAITH:** Unlike saving faith, which every believer must have, the gift of mountain-moving faith is a Spirit given ability to have a vision of what needs to be done and firm conviction that God will do it even though it looks impossible. Indications that the gift is genuine is when others follow the Spirit in you.

**Hazard -- \***

- \* Impatient with the weaker faith and pragmatic.
- \* May become careless and mistake his will for God's.
- \* May conflict with the one possessing the gift of wisdom, knowledge, discerning of spirits, or gifts of leadership.
- \* Pride in faith.

The late J. Russel and Gertrude Morse family, our missionaries to Tibet tell of many beautiful stories how the Holy Spirit led others through them.

Son, Eugene Morse, records in the February, 1974 Reader's Digest one of those stories titled--"Home to Hidden Valley." Simply he said---The Communists were coming into the area to harass and capture the Christians. Bro. J. Russell Morse challenged the people:

**"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him."**

**II Corinthians 2:14**

The people responded and at midnight after prayer, five thousand of them started an impossible journey of many miles out of Tibet, around India and into Burma. Brother Morse supposed some would be lost along the way. The perilous path took them through lion country, deadly snakes, and much of the mountain trail required sliding sideways single file. There were many children and mothers with small babies plus elderly folk. They pushed on through wind, rain and mud and after many days arrived safely without the loss of one, high in the Himalayan Mountains in a place called "Hidden Valley."

#14) NAME OF THE GIFT Brother Morse exercised in leading the people\_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift in the Bible\_\_\_\_\_

GIVE SOME EXAMPLES all of us are called upon to exercise this gift daily

## **GIFTS for CONFIRMING**

**GIFT OF MIRACLES:** The ability to perform supernatural works for the Purpose of confirming the authority or the Word or the messenger; or expedite God's plan. A miracle must be an act which sets aside God's everyday acts such as the water turned to wine, Jesus walking on the water, healing of the man born blind, etc.

**Hazards -- \***

- \* Pride in power.
- \* Tendency to seek personal glory (Moses and the rock)
- \* Danger of designating ordinary acts of God as miracles.

Rodger Thompson, minister in Wichita, Kansas, visited India in 1998 and following is a part of his report:

"Another woman in this village of Bangalapudur in the Periyar region in southern India was near death. The pastor prayed for her and then returned home. That night he was awakened by the Holy Spirit, and told to go pray for this lady. When he arrived at her home, he was told she had died and her body had been removed. He told them he was told to come pray for her so he went to where her body was and prayed. God raised her back from the dead! Shortly afterward (a week or two) she was bitten by a poisonous snake. Victims die from this bite almost immediately. Before she slipped into a coma she asked to be moved to the church building, as she wanted to die there. The members of the church did that, but the pastor and some of the members fasted and prayed for her there for five or ten days ( I'm not sure which). At the end of that time the lady said she saw a great light and then woke up, healed!"

#15) NAME OF ABOVE GIFT \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift from your life or church \_\_\_\_\_

**GIFT OF HEALING:** The power to be used of God to bring healing at every level: emotional spiritual and physical. It is especially related to physical healing.

**Hazards -- \***

- \* Pride in power.
- \* Tendency to seek personal glory.
- \* Tendency to use for personal profit.
- \* Tendency to gather a personal following.

"Here is a case of a clear life changing "Word from the Lord" that I had to obey! This incident took place while I was a youth minister at the Fortville Christian Church in Fortville, Indiana. God was awakening me to the fact that the devil is real, spiritual gifts are for the church today and He still does miracles. Many stories could be told about what led up to this event, but suffice it to say it was another of those times when God was speaking into my world with such growing intensity that I was unable to ignore Him. One Sunday afternoon I got a call from the Dengers. Don was an elder in the church and their young son Joe, elementary school age, had wrecked his bike and the handle bar had gouged his eye. They took him to the doctor and the eye was hemorrhaging. It was bad enough that the doctor wanted to do surgery but they couldn't until the hemorrhaging stopped. Joe was to lie perfectly still or he could lose the eye.

They had Joe propped up in a recliner when my wife and I arrived. I don't remember when it started, on the way over there or after we walked in. I just remember knowing in my spirit that God wanted me to pray for Joe's healing. I was intimidated. I did everything I could to ignore this conviction. The longer I ignored it the louder it became until it was practically an audible voice in my mind. Like a fool I said "no." I remember thinking, "no, I will not pray for his healing, I will just pray a nice pastoral prayer in which I would ask for healing," but my prayer would not in any way create any expectation on the part of Joe or his family that he would be miraculously healed. So I prayed, visited, and squirmed the whole time.

We went home, and as the evening wore on the Holy Spirit kept telling me to pray for Joe to be healed. By now it was such a vivid struggle that I was nearly responding out loud. I remember being in our bedroom when I finally yielded. I think I spoke out loud and said, "OK Lord, I give up. It is too late to go back over there now, but I will pray now and then call Joe's mother in the morning and tell her what I have done. I prayed for Joe to be healed and peace settled over me.

The next morning I called Peg, Joe's mother, and told her what I had done and that I fully expected that when Joe went to the doctor the next Friday he would be healed. She shocked me when she said matter-of-factly, "Oh I know he will! I too have prayed for his healing and I know he will be healed!" I was really amazed.

As the week went by I got involved in ministry stuff and forgot about Joe's doctor's appointment. Friday afternoon Peg and Joe came walking into my office and told me that they had just come from the doctor. He had examined Joe's eye, backed up, examined it again, backed up and in amazement told them that there was no evidence of injury anywhere in the eye. He said he could go home and return to school and do whatever he wanted. There might be some blurriness for awhile from being covered so long but there was no injury there.

Again I have never been the same. Our God is a sovereign God and He will not stay in the boxes we assign Him to." (Rodger Thompson-Wichita, Kansas)

#16) NAME OF ABOVE GIFT EXERCISED \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMPLE of this gift from your life or church \_\_\_\_\_

**GIFT OF GLOSSA (unlearned languages-tongues)** Speaking in an unlearned language as a sign to unbelievers or for personal edification.

**Hazards -- \***

- \* Pride in power to speak in tongues and tendency to assess oneself more spiritual.
- \* May exhibit a spirit of judgment or criticism.
- \* Tendency to seek personal glory and gather a following.

The late Brother Don Dewelt of Joplin, Missouri, told me he had two students in his class at Ozark Bible College who praised God with glossa (unlearned language-Vine). "I'm sure not going to fault these young people who get 'charged up' by glossa and are out winning souls to Jesus ever day, which is doing far more than most of my students."

#17) EXAMPLE of this gift in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you know of a modern example? \_\_\_\_\_

**GIFT OF INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES (unlearned language):** A companion manifestation that may be exhibited in the tongues speaker or in another person present at the time of the speaking. It is the ability to interpret an unlearned language for the edification of the congregation.

**Hazards -- \***

- \* Primarily, pride.

In his fine book Twix Twelve and Twenty, Pat Boone tells of an occasion when he was waiting for a plane in a New York City airport. A lady recognized him and introduced herself saying, "I need your help. I have just met a Hebrew lady from Israel who needs to know about Jesus. The lady speaks Hebrew and understands very little English. Pat introduced himself to the lady and began to tell her about Jesus and what she needed to do to be saved. She accepted Jesus and commented, "Thank you, seldom do I hear anyone speak such clear Hebrew." Pat Boone commented later, I certainly do not speak Hebrew but the Holy Spirit became the translator. Isn't that what occurred on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2:6-11?

18) EXAMPLE of this gift in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you know of a modern example? \_\_\_\_\_



## SUGGESTED ANSWERS FOR ABOVE GIFTS

#1 - Mercy .... #2 - Helps, mercy, giving .... #3 - Hospitality, mercy .... #4 - Teaching ....  
#5 - Word of Knowledge .... #6 - Encouragement .... #7 - Word of Knowledge .... #8 - Mercy,  
Discernment .... #9 - Word of Knowledge .... #10 - Leadership .... #11 - Apostolic gift .... #12 -  
Shepherding .... #13 - Evangelism .... #14 - Faith .... #15 - Miracles, healing .... #16 - Healing ....  
#17 - Speaking in unlearned language .... #18 - Interpretation of unlearned language.

### EXERCISE 56

**OPEN BOOK TEST.** See how well you have learned the "Gifts of the Spirit" by identifying the GIFTS of the HOLY SPIRIT from a mission trip to INDIA - February, 1999

There are 20 Gifts of the Spirit referenced in this report. Write the name of each on the blank lines provided.

"The people of India were among the most beautiful people I have ever seen. Their dark skin and fine facial features set off by brightly colored clothing (among the women) makes for a very attractive people. The sari that the women wear (all casts and in all situations) is one of the most feminine and graceful garments I know of. The men dressed more plainly but they were still very handsome.

The first thing that comes to mind is the absolute sense of peace and security I had the whole time we were there. I knew we were in a country where persecution is on the rise and in fact an Australian missionary and his two sons were burned to death by militant Hindus the first week we were there. Yet I was so secure that I didn't even realize it until it was almost over. When I finally realized how secure I felt I knew it was because of all the prayers that were holding us up before the Lord. The only times I was ever a little nervous was when we were traveling. Of course I always prayed the planes up and down, but the travel by auto was a truly harrowing experience. I had experienced something like it several years ago in the Philippines but I still found myself bracing for collision more than once. They drive on the left side of the road when they absolutely have to avoid collision. Otherwise it is a free-for-all. More than once we would pull out to pass a truck or bus, and have two vehicles coming at us with one or more bicycles, motorcycles, and ox carts and pedestrians on the side all trying to use the same two lanes. Somehow they know how to sort it all out. No one gets mad and there are relatively few wrecks. The main problem I had with the travel was the suffocating diesel and smoke fumes combined with the constant bouncing, starting, stopping, and swerving. I used a whole bottle of motion sickness pills. The smoke fumes come from the omnipresent rubbish fires. Everywhere was the smell of burning garbage and open sewers.

**Example of a spiritual gift from the above paragraphs.**

#14) Gift of martyrdom See I Corinthians 13:3

India is a land of great contrast. In many ways they still have very primitive lives, and yet in the middle of it all will be a television or other modern things. There is great beauty everywhere, and yet there is great ugliness also. The people are very particular to keep their personal space clean and neat, and yet they will throw trash on the ground and since there is no effective sanitation system, it just piles up in the ditches, vacant lots, and in little piles everywhere. The people set them on fire to get rid of them. With so many people they couldn't build a landfill big enough to hold it all anyway.

India Gospel League (IGL) has ministries all over India. They are not in every state but they are in most of them and constantly expanding. The ministry goes beyond just the proclamation of the Gospel and the planting of churches. #15) GIFT OF \_\_\_\_\_.

They believe (as I tried to say in my sermon notes that some of you received) that you cannot separate the love of God and the Gospel commission from the love of human beings and the need to minister to the whole person. Consequently they have children's homes, vocational training centers, leper colonies and feedings, hospital and medical ministries,

#16) GIFT OF \_\_\_\_\_, day care for mothers who work the fields,

#17) GIFT OF \_\_\_\_\_, schools, a seminary,

#18) GIFT OF \_\_\_\_\_, ministries to the blind and handicapped, they even work with local governments and civic organizations to improve villages. For example in one village, they helped put in a trench system to carry sewage. In another, they worked to help set up a lighting system. Low caste or otherwise destitute people are trained in a variety of vocations. Typing, sewing, weaving, steel fabrication, carpentry, auto mechanics, nursing, are a few of the vocations taught.

India is still a very rural country with agriculture being the primary industry. Of course crops vary across the country but we saw rice, tumeric, sugar cane, tapioca, tomatoes, peanuts, coconuts, castor beans, and many others. Of course almost everything is done by manual labor or with animal labor. Even road building crews and major concrete and block sewer trench construction (most of it is just open sewers running in little streams) we saw were all done manually. I did see a few pieces of heavy equipment and some tractors, but they were rare. Even buried telephone cable was installed manually.

One village which we were in had a population of 54,000 people. Salem, a city of one million had just been upgraded from town to city. There were none of the modern buildings of industry there. People everywhere!

Samuel Stephens, the president of India Gospel League has a vision of uniting all the small independent churches all over India to work together to saturate India with the Gospel. An organization called the National Association of Independent Churches was formed to serve as a networking agency for the churches. They divide up the country into regions and each region selects its own leader. #19) GIFTED MAN\_\_\_\_\_.

They set goals and work together to reach them. They meet in regional pastor conferences once a month, and the IGL staff provides equipping for the pastors and gives them equipment to use in planting churches. I was involved in speaking at four of these conferences. In 1992 there was a meeting of 200 pastors and they set the goal of planting 1,000 churches by the year 2000. The next year when they got together the number of pastors had increased dramatically and about 800 churches had already been planted (a church is twenty baptized believers). #20) GIFTED MEN\_\_\_\_\_. They revised to 2,000 and again found that they had almost reached it. They increased it to 5,000, and then 10,000, and now it is at 12,500. At one of the conferences I saw the pastors commit themselves to plant two churches each this year. Most pastors serve four to six churches. As you can see there is a great need to raise up leaders, and God is doing it. #21) LEADERSHIP GIFT OF\_\_\_\_\_.

At one new little house church we were in, I had the privilege of preaching. #22) GIFT OF\_\_\_\_\_. They were meeting in a rented two-room house. They were started when IGL decided to try and experiment. They took a visiting team (much like ours) and let them be a part of the showing of the Jesus film in this village. Then they went back, and followed up on those who responded to the invitation twice. A church was born. This congregation existed in a village of 54,000 people, the only Gospel witness there. I couldn't help but think about how many churches we have in a town of 3,000. These people had outgrown their house and had been searching for a long time for a place to meet, but no one wanted to rent to them because they were Christians. Finally the Lord provided this two room house. We sat with the men in the front room and the women were in the back room with a doorway in between. This was their first meeting in the house. They were very excited. They were concerned about the increasing persecution but committed to reach their village. They even broadcast the service over a PA system into the neighborhood.

As you may know our church sent \$5,000 to help build a church building in Bangalapur in the Periyar region. #23) GIFT OF\_\_\_\_\_. It is also in southern India. We were privileged to be there to dedicate the building. #24) GIFT OF\_\_\_\_\_. This church has an amazing story. The pastor was trying to start a church there but was having little response. There was a woman in the village that was in her mid 30s and totally crippled. Doctors and shamans had tried to heal her to no avail. She was possessed by an evil spirit. The pastor went and prayed for her. She was delivered from the evil spirit and

totally healed. As a result everyone in the region heard about God's movement and many have come to Christ. GIFTS OF #25) Exorcism and #26)\_\_\_\_\_.

Another woman in this village was near death. The pastor prayed for her and then returned home. That night he was awakened by the Holy Spirit, and told to go pray for this lady. When he arrived at her home, he was told she had died, and her body had been removed. He told them, he had been told to come pray for her so he went to where her body was and prayed. God raised her back from the dead! Shortly afterward (a week or two) she was bitten by a poisonous snake. Victims die from this bite almost immediately. Before she slipped into a coma she asked to be moved to the church building, as she wanted to die there. The members of the church did that, but the pastor and some of the members fasted and prayed for her there for five or ten days ( I'm not sure which). At the end of that time the lady said she saw a great light and then woke up healed! GIFTS OF #27) \_\_\_\_\_ and #28)\_\_\_\_\_.

There is in the church, which is about a year old, about 40 members, although there were about 200 there for the dedication. They had a regional pastor's conference, ladies conference, and youth conference at the same time. LIST THREE GIFTS #29) \_\_\_\_\_; #30)\_\_\_\_\_; and #31)\_\_\_\_\_.

There was an older lady there at the dedication whose husband had left her, and her family had rejected her when she became a believer. She was illiterate, but has a good memory of Scripture, and can quote huge sections of the Bible from memory. #32) GIFT OF\_\_\_\_\_. She had become an itinerate church planter, and along with another lady goes full time witnessing and praying for people. She has planted five churches. She goes to an area where she feels the Holy Spirit is leading her. When she gets there, she asks about the needs of the people and learns who is sick. She spends time in prayer, and then goes to pray for people around the village. God often works through her and heals those she prays for. THREE GIFTS #33)\_\_\_\_\_ #34)\_\_\_\_\_; and #35)\_\_\_\_\_.

by Rodger Thompson, Northwest Christian Church, Wichita, Kansas

### **SUGGESTED ANSWERS FOR ABOVE INDIA REPORT GIFTS**

#14 - Martyrdom -

#15 - Government, administration

#16 - Mercy, helps, teaching, healing

#17 - Helps

#18 - Teaching

#19 - Evangelism, faith, administration, exhortation

- #20 - Missionary, evangelism, shepherding
- #21 - Shepherding, faith, government
- #22 - Exhortation (prophecy)
- #23 - Giving
- #24 - Exhortation
- #25 - Exorcism
- #26 - Healing
- #27 - Faith, healing
- #28 - Word of Knowledge
- #29 - Evangelism
- #30 - Teaching
- #31 - Exhortation
- #32 - Word of Knowledge
- #33 - Evangelism
- #34 - Healing
- #35 - Shepherding.

## **Identifying and Using OUR Gifts**

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (I Peter 4:10)

As we begin to look towards our o-w-n personal "Gift(s) of the Spirit" here is a meaningful poem:

### **BUILDERS**

Isn't it strange that princes and kings,  
 And clowns that caper in sawdust rings,  
 And common folk like you and me  
 Are builders of eternity?  
 To each is given a bag of tools,  
 A shapeless mass, and a book of rules:  
 And each must make, ere life is flown,  
 A stumbling block or a stepping stone.

Author Unknown

## UNWRAPPING YOUR GIFT

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." (I Corinthians 12:4-7)

God would have taken us to heaven immediately at conversion had He no purpose for us here. Among other purposes, "we are saved to serve." To equip for service, God gives one or more spiritual gifts to every child of His. He does not want "dead wood" in His church.

On our way from Monahans, Texas, to Denver, Colorado, to share another revival, we parked at a state park west of Walsenburg. It was a place of beautiful landscape with mountains in the distance. After visiting with Stan and Susan Stockton, we retired to our trailer for the night. In this prairie park it was very quiet and with the setting of the sun the birds ceased to sing and in the distance a coyote howled. Imalee, Lisa and I slept like babies, and got up at sunrise to begin the final journey in Denver with Rodger and Connie Thompson.

When we opened our trailer door, we were pleasantly surprised to see eight inches of snow covering everything. We dug our way through and pulled out slowly heading for the mile high city.

When the Holy Spirit filled me, making Jesus the Lord of my life, it was like the coming of the snow--quietly with no immediate observable effects. However, a door was opened into a whole new world, and the flower and fruits of my gifts began to bud and bloom. Later when I took the 100 statement quiz in this chapter it indicated the Lord had, out of 20 Gifts of the Spirit listed in the Scripture, blessed me with 17 of those gifts. Perhaps most evident was a desire to *Praise the Lord, discernment of spirits, faith to walk, knowledge* to hear God speaking, and on goes the list. Many of these are discussed in detail in my first book Faith Alive in Heart, Home and Church (1989).

## HOW TO DETERMINE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

Below are 100 statements which may help you discover your spiritual gift or gifts. Please rate yourself with the following scale by writing the appropriate number in the corresponding number square on the "score sheet" at the end of these 100 statements.

The truth of this statement has been experienced in my life:

**much 3 .... some 2 .... little 1 .... not at all 0**

1. I have proclaimed the truth in a God-inspired and enthusiastic Way.
2. I have been responsible for the growth of a group of Christians.
3. I have enabled persons to learn Biblical truths in detail.
4. I have applied truth effectively in my life.
5. I have the ability to discover truth for myself.
6. I have encouraged verbally the wavering, troubled, etc.
7. I can see the difference between truth and error.
8. I manage money well in order to give liberally to the Lord.
9. I assist key leaders to relieve them for their essential job.
10. I work joyfully with persons ignored by the majority.
11. I can adapt well in a different culture in order to evangelize.
12. I can lead others to a salvation decision for Christ.
13. I can provide food/lodging graciously to those in need.
14. I believe God will keep His promises in spite of circumstances.
15. I can persuade others to move towards achieving Biblical objectives.
16. As a key church leader I delegate responsibility to others.
17. In the name of the Lord I can pray effecting miraculously changing circumstances.
18. In the name of the Lord my prayers cure diseases.
19. I have spoken in unlearned languages (tongues).
20. I can interpret unlearned languages (tongues) to avoid confusion in the church.
21. God uses me to reveal the future but shows no details.
22. I sacrificially give myself for infant or straying Christians.
23. I can explain books of the New Testament well to others.
24. I make what appears to be correct decisions for my life.
25. Insights of truth bring conviction to my mind and heart.
26. I am an instrument of dislodging the complacent and redirecting the wayward.
27. I judge well between the poor and good (or evil and good).
28. I give things or money liberally for the Lord.
29. I enjoy ushering or cleaning at a church related facility.
30. I rejoice to aid the undeserving.
31. I would like to learn another language well to help start a church.
32. I share joyfully what Christ has done for me.

33. My heart and home are open to provide a gracious haven for guests.
34. I have the conviction of the reality of an active God in the daily affairs of my local church.
35. I know where I'm going with Christian followers.
36. I am able to organize ideas, people, things, and time for more effective ministry
37. In the name of the Lord I can expel demons.
38. In the name of the Lord, I can heal the emotionally ill.
39. I have had tongues spoken by myself interpreted by another.
40. I have a motive for edifying the church when interpreting tongues.
41. God uses me to communicate great truths of God in a gripping compelling clear fashion  
clearly spoken from the Lord.
42. I am well known by those I serve and guide.
43. I can make difficult Biblical truths understandable to people.
44. I can choose from options an alternative which usually works.
45. I can acquire and master facts and principles of Bible truth.
46. God uses me to verbally challenge the spiritually apathetic.
47. I have insights to tell what is wrong with a Biblical message.
48. I cheerfully give so that God's work will be extended and helped.
49. I enjoy typing, filing or recording figures or minutes for the Lord.
50. I am blessed by visiting in hospitals or homes for the elderly.
51. I am able to begin new churches with a different language and culture.
52. I can explain the meaning well that Jesus is the Christ.
53. I have a knack of making strangers feel at home.
54. I enjoy trusting in the presence and power of God for the impossible.
55. I can influence others towards Biblical goals while serving with them.
56. I am able to plan with others goals of ministry for action.
57. God has intervened to do impossible things in my life.
58. In the name of the Lord I can treat successfully those who are spiritually sick.
59. I do not forbid others to speak in tongues.
60. I pray that I may interpret if speaking in tongues occurs.
61. I preach effectively for people to respond to God's Word.
62. I can feed followers by guiding them to selected portions of the Bible.
63. I communicate Biblical truths to others enabling changes in knowledge, attitudes,  
values or conduct.
64. My nomination of others for positions prove to be good selections.
65. I easily learn Biblical truths.
66. I am able to counsel effectively the perplexed, guilty or addicted.



67. I am able to identify that which is not true to the Bible.
68. I am able to earn much money for giving to the Lord's work.
69. I distribute church literature or papers in my community.
70. I enjoy taking shut-ins out for a drive or assisting them tangibly otherwise.
71. I enjoy soul-winning in a foreign country.
72. I rejoice to speak a message which is primarily the Gospel.
73. I have a genuine graciousness and appreciation of each guest in my home.
74. I let God be God in answering prayer for other Christians.
75. I can steer others through difficulties in a church related task.
76. I am able to lead a committee in making decisions together.
77. I am an instrument of God's supernatural change in lives.
78. I pray for others so that healing occurs.
79. I do not speak in tongues if there is no interpreter.
80. I can interpret tongues in a way that is orderly and not divisive.
81. I can give messages of doom or judgment where there is no repentance.
82. I am able to restore persons who have wandered away from their Christian community.
83. I train Christians to be obedient disciples of Christ.
84. I fear God in all personal decision-making.
85. I am able to recognize key and important facts of Scripture.
86. I can comfort a Christian in his/her affliction or suffering.
87. I can see through a phony before his phoniness is clearly evident.
88. I enjoy giving things freely with delight and love.
89. I am able to be a teacher's aid in Bible class.
90. I can talk cheerfully with those in prison or the lonely shut-in person.
91. I have the ability to learn a foreign language.
92. I continually go where unbelievers are in order to win them.
93. I am not forgetful to entertain strangers.
94. I trust in the reliability of Jesus as God.
95. Others follow me because I have an expert knowledge of some type which  
contributes to the building up of my church.
96. I am able to recruit Christians to exercise their spiritual gifts.
97. In the Name of the Lord I am able to recover sight for the blind.
98. I can help effectively those who are feeble-minded
99. I believe that unlearned languages (tongues) I speak are a sign for unbelievers.
100. I desire an audience of some unbelievers when I interpret tongues.

## ANSWER SHEET for Spiritual Gift Quiz

						TOTAL	GIFT
Row A	1	21	41	61	81	_____	_____
Row B	2	22	42	62	82	_____	_____
Row C	3	23	43	63	83	_____	_____
Row D	4	24	44	64	84	_____	_____
Row E	5	25	45	65	85	_____	_____
Row F	6	26	46	66	86	_____	_____
Row G	7	27	47	67	87	_____	_____
Row H	8	28	48	68	88	_____	_____
Row I	9	29	49	69	89	_____	_____
Row J	10	30	50	70	90	_____	_____
Row K	11	31	51	71	91	_____	_____
Row L	12	32	52	72	92	_____	_____
Row M	13	33	53	73	93	_____	_____
Row N	14	34	54	74	94	_____	_____
Row O	15	35	55	75	95	_____	_____
Row P	16	36	56	76	96	_____	_____
Row Q	17	37	57	77	97	_____	_____
Row R	18	38	58	78	98	_____	_____
Row S	19	39	59	79	99	_____	_____
Row T	20	40	60	80	100	_____	_____

Total up your points for each gift from left to right, here is the interpretation:

**10-15 total points = You have the gift! Use it meekly and wisely.**

**5-10 total points = Humbly try out your aptitude in this area.**

**0- 5 total points = Probably no gift for you in this area.**

After you have completed the test by rating yourself for each of the 100 statements, add the scores in each horizontal row (Row A: Statements 1, 21, 41, 61, 81; Row B: Statements 2, 22, 42, 62, 82, etc.). Record that number in the Total column. Your total score for each row indicates your level of interest and ability in the area of each particular gift. **Write in the names of the gifts from the list below.** Write the name of the appropriate gift for each row on the lines provided. The highest scores show you which spiritual gifts are most evident in your life.

- Row A prophecy
- Row B shepherding (pastoring)
- Row C teaching
- Row D wisdom
- Row E knowledge
- Row F exhortation
- Row G discernment
- Row H giving
- Row I helps
- Row J mercy
- Row K apostleship
- Row L evangelizing
- Row M hospitality
- Row N faith
- Row O leading
- Row P administration
- Row Q miracles
- Row R healing
- Row S tongues
- Row T interpreting tongues

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Paul urges us to uncover and utilize our gifts. He exhorts every believer "not to think of himself more highly than ought to think; but to think soberly." (Romans 12:3) A sensible estimate of our abilities is a spiritual necessity. But how do we go about discovering our spiritual capacities? Here are seven suggestions.

### **1) List the Gifts**

A jeweler who recognizes diamonds must become acquainted with all kinds of gems. Similarly, the Christian must be informed about the many, multiformed New Testament gifts if he would hope to recognize his own.

### **2) Go to Work**

We ought to expose ourselves to various kinds of Christian service, likely first in the area of natural abilities. Perhaps we should try teaching a Sunday school class, attend teacher training, visit door-to-door, join a nursing home team, or take in a Lay Institute for Evangelism.

Willingness to try something new may uncover a gift. Or urging by fellow believers to some different Christian service may suggest a hitherto hidden spiritual ability. When Paul encouraged Timothy to do the work of an evangelist (II Timothy 4:5) was he hinting that such activity might bring out the gift of evangelism?

### **3) Note your Inclinations**

Desire for a gift may well point up its existence (though it does not guarantee it). A gift will often be preceded by desire and followed by opportunity to use it.

### **4) Dedication**

Ever notice the location of Paul's discussion of gifts in Romans? It comes at the very beginning of the practical section that deals with godly living -- right after he asks for dedication of the believer's body. Is he trying to tell us that after an act of general dedication the first specific area that needs dedication is our gifts? How fitting to consciously place such gifts in the Lord's service, expressing willingness to obey Him with our spiritual capacities.

### **5) Development**

The existence of a gift is a call to exercise it. Development of a gift may involve one in formal study, at home, by correspondence, in Sunday school, or in evening Bible school. Our gifts may be sharpened through the ministry of the gifts of fellow Christians. One reason Paul wished to travel to Rome was to bestow the benefit of his spiritual gifts, the overflow of which would contribute to the edification of believers (Romans 1:11).

### **6) Delight**

Christians should take delight in discovering and using their gifts. The "delight" criterion in discovering one's gifts seems equivalent to the "peace of God" principle in ascertaining God's will. The inner joy a person experiences in exercising a gift may indicate that this is indeed that

person's gift. The delight a person finds in ministering his gift is subconsciously communicated to the recipients of his ministry. The overflow of delight reinforces the exercise of a gift.

### **7) Discernment by Others**

The crowning confirmation that we possess a gift is recognition of this gift by others. In fact, others may see a gift in us long before we ourselves are aware of it. Thus, a vital duty of Christians is to encourage fellow believers when they observe a gift. Because the gift of encouragement was clearly evident, the apostles gave a disciple named Joseph a new name, "Son of Encouragement" or "Barnabas" (Acts 4:36). Frank discussion with fellow believers may help identify our gifts. Because self-estimate may be colored by deception, our character and abilities are often best evaluated by others. One professor said, "It's so strange to meet someone who claims to have the gift of preaching when no one has the gift of listening." However, earthly fellowships sometimes do not recognize gifted men at first. Campbell Morgan was rejected as a candidate for the ministry at age twenty-five. In later years, he won world-wide recognition as pastor, author, college president and Bible teacher. It is possible for believers to live many years unconscious of their wealth of spiritual gifts. Unused gifts squander the grace of God.

Some believers who used their gifts in bygone days may have allowed these gifts to cool almost to ashes. To such comes the reminder of Paul, "Stir up the gift of God which is in thee" (II Timothy 1:6). The verb "stir" means to rekindle slumbering ashes into a flame. Remember, once God gives a gift, He does not take it back. "The gifts ... of God are without repentance" (Romans 11:29)

## **C O N C L U S I O N**

"By the grace of God I am what I am and His grace . . . was not in vain." (I Corinthians 15:10)

A few years before John Newton died, a friend was having breakfast with him. Their custom was to read from the Bible after the meal.

That day the selection was from I Corinthians 15. When the words "by the grace of God I am what I am" were read, Newton was silent for several minutes. Then he said, "I am not what I ought to be. How imperfect and deficient I am! I am not what I wish to be, although I abhor that which is evil and would cleave to what is good. I am not what I hope to be, but soon I shall put off mortality, and with it all sin.... Though I am not what I ought to be, nor what I wish to be, nor yet what I hope to be, I can truly say I am not what I once was; a slave to sin and Satan. I can heartily join with the apostle and acknowledge that by the grace of God I am what I am!"

Newton's words apply to every Christian. Because of God's goodness, we are spared the bad that we deserve and are given more good than we do not deserve. Every good thing comes from His hand.

Humble gratitude ought to characterize our lives. Even though none of us is what we want to be, I trust each of us is becoming what God wants us to be.