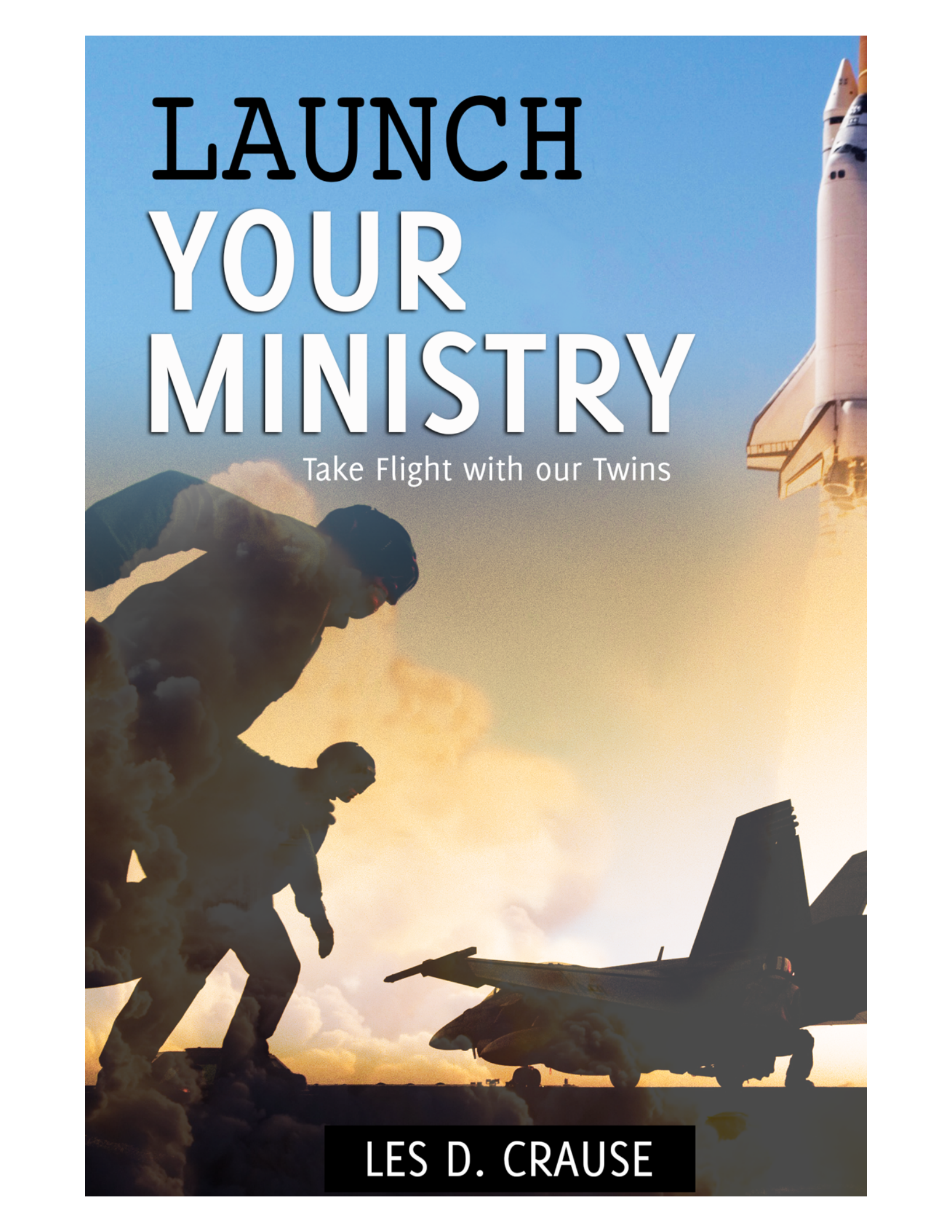




LAUNCH YOUR MINISTRY

Take Flight with our Twins

LES D. CRAUSE

Launch Your Ministry

BY LES D. CRAUSE

Launch Your Ministry

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PART 1 - FULFILLING YOUR MINISTRY CALLING

SECTION 01 – MINISTRY VS. CALLING

CHAPTER 01

Ministry Made Easy

Part 1 - Fulfilling Your Ministry Calling

Section 01 – Ministry vs. Calling

Chapter 01 – Ministry Made Easy

I would like to look at a subject that is very important in the life of every believer. And so I have entitled this series, Ministry Made Easy.

What exactly is ministry? I am sure this word produces a different picture in the mind of each person. Ministry can be understood by comparing the natural world and your natural life with your spiritual life.

Your Spiritual Career

In your natural life you would look for a career, or the main thing that you will do with your life. Ministry is the equivalent thing in your spiritual life. If you like, it is your spiritual career.

You need to know how to fulfill your spiritual career. But unfortunately many people make it too complicated. Most actually never find their ministry or carry it out. They just do not know how to go about it.

In our natural life it is very easy to understand. You know what is involved.

You find out what you want to be when you grow up. You build up in your mind, desires of the kind of career you want to follow.

When you finish school, you go to college to learn and develop the knowledge that you need. You qualify to eventually take the position and fulfill the career that you desired to follow.

Because ministry is so similar, we tend to take the same approach in preparing ourselves for ministry as we do in pursuing our careers. And although they may look very similar, they are unfortunately not the same thing. So you cannot approach them both in the same way.

As we go through the first part of this teaching, I would like to show you how to identify and understand the difference between a career and a ministry, and how you should be carrying out your ministry.

The term 'ministry' is not quite what everybody thinks it is. If you think of ministry as a spiritual career, usually the last thing that you have in your mind is what the word ministry actually means in the original language of the Bible.

Becoming a Servant

A minister is not someone in an exalted position of authority that is highly qualified and exercises domination over people.

A minister in Bible terms is quite simply a servant. This is quite the opposite picture. Ministry effectively means 'service'!

Perhaps in a career this is also true. You rise up in life but your purpose is to serve humanity and to make your mark in this world; to do something perhaps that will change the lives of others.

But we don't usually have this idea in mind with a career, do we? When it comes to a career we often think,

"I want to rise up and make more money than anyone else. I want to become famous and well known, and I want to come to a position of authority where I can control other people."

Those three temptations have been there from the beginning. They were there in the Garden when Satan came to tempt Eve. And Satan tried to bring the same temptations to Jesus.

The temptations are a desire for fortune, fame and control. These are very dangerous when we mix them with ministry.

What needs to be added to this is another two important things that we need in life. These also color our approach to ministry and get mixed up with our motives for doing ministry.

Acceptance

The first one is acceptance, which is simply having other people take you just as you are. They do not reject you, but accept you just the way you are. They are ready to be associated with you and receive you into their group.

You are then no longer the odd one out and you are treated the same as everyone else. This is the essence of acceptance, but it also goes much deeper than that.

Most of us have grown up facing rejection in life. You may have been rejected for many different reasons, including where you come from, your racial group, your looks, your height or weight, or even your gender.

There are many things that could have caused others to reject you, and these leave you feeling unaccepted.

But acceptance begins even deeper than that. It starts way back in your relationship with the first parent you get to know - your mother.

A mother is actively involved in fulfilling the need in a child to be accepted. If there is anyone in the world who accepts a child, no matter how ugly or naughty it is, it is the mother.

The mother is always there to love and care for the child. So the mother gives the very first acceptance for a child.

Each of us goes through different experiences. Some of us were not fully accepted by our mothers. Some mothers were too busy working or doing other things. Perhaps there were also other children around.

No matter what the situation was, you may have felt that your mother did not give you the acceptance and you went out into the world alone. You may also have had other siblings and family members that did not accept you and you did not fit in with them.

There are so many things in life that can produce it. It's a big void inside us, and so we continue to feel that people will not accept us.

As this becomes mixed up with your career, it creates a driving force inside you that will always be controlled by other people. That is because everything you do will be designed to get other people to accept you.

You are then caught in circumstances that stop you from being fully efficient, because you are always worried about what people will think. You have to keep adjusting your behavior for other people.

If you take this now into the realm of ministry, the same principles apply. Ministry is something that you are doing for the Lord. It means taking your place in the spiritual life according to what God sees in you.

The Scriptures teach that when we accept Jesus as our Savior and are born again, we become members of the Body of Christ.

If you consider yourself as a part in a body, you would be fitting in with a lot of other parts. So hands, feet, ears, eyes and nose all recognize one another and need one another.

They all fit in with each other. So if you are not feeling accepted and cannot fit in with the rest of the body, you cannot easily accept the place you were put in. You might think,

"I am just a big ugly nose."

You don't want to be the nose because it is ugly, and people don't like big ugly noses. So your ministry is now affected by your view of yourself and that deep need for acceptance.

Recognition

The second thing that stands in the way is similar to acceptance but not the same. It is recognition.

Acceptance means that people look at who we are, and they either accept or reject us because of who we are.

Recognition goes a step further, because it looks instead at what we have done and accomplished, and it holds us up high. Someone looks up to you with pride and says,

"I wish I could be like you. I think you are great."

When they do that it meets a need inside. We all have a need for others to look to us and recognize what we have done.

Maybe you have gone to a lot of effort to do things in life and nobody notices you. Often the main person involved in either creating or meeting this need in a child is the father, rather than the mother.

A father should notice his children, make a fuss of them and recognize what the child is doing. A child may draw little pictures and bring them to dad, expecting him to say,

"Wow this is an awesome picture."

This is a little thing, but parents often fail in this. Fathers are too busy with other things. They have work to do and other things that are important.

The child grows up feeling that he or she was not recognized. Perhaps the rest of the family also does not recognize what the child does.

Perhaps you were given all the dirty work to do and your brothers and sisters got away without having to do that. Nobody appreciated or recognized the hard work that you did.

We all grow up in life with some of these experiences. So there is now a driving force in you that will not allow you to fulfill a normal career.

You have to be above average. It is not enough to be simply good at what you do. You have to be better than everyone else.

You have to draw attention to yourself and have people noticing you. You want them to rave about you and tell you that you are really great.

There is a continual need for affirmation and being recognized. Sadly though, both acceptance and recognition are like deep voids inside that are never satisfied.

Even if you do find people that will accept or recognize you, that deep inner need is never fully satisfied. It is a thirst that you cannot quench.

This affects people in their careers. But it affects you even more in your 'spiritual career' - your work for the Lord. That's because ministry is serving others, not trying to meet your own needs.

If you have a need to be accepted and recognized then this will color your ministry and make you less effective. You will be wondering all the time what people think of you and your ministry.

Are they accepting the kind of ministry you are giving? Do they recognize how well you preach? Do they recognize how hard you work for the Lord?

When these things color your ministry, it will become less effective, and it will fail.

Achievement

So what is the correct desire you can have in place of those needs? It is called achievement.

A desire for achievement is not based on what someone else does. It does not involve you competing with someone else or trying to be better than them. It is not trying to impress someone so that they will accept or recognize you.

Achievement involves fighting against yourself and setting your own goals in life. You decide what you want to be or attain. You have a picture in your mind of what you can see yourself becoming.

There is instead a driving force in you, to reach the goal that you set for yourself. And there is nothing wrong with having that motivation while you are doing the work of the ministry.

You may set a goal in your heart of winning thousands of souls for the Lord. That is wonderful, and when you set this goal in your heart you can go out and do great things for the Lord.

Perhaps you have a burning desire to be used by God and to change people's lives. You may want to move in the miraculous and reach out to touch and heal the sick.

There is nothing wrong with this kind of motivation, because you are not doing it to draw attention to yourself. You are doing it because you cry out to see people's lives changed.

You see broken lives and you want to help them. You have a desire within to achieve great things for the Lord. These are some of the motivations we have, and often we have the wrong ones.

But here is what makes all of this foolish and deceptive. You do not realize that if you reach out to others, taking your eyes off yourself and pouring into them, they will accept you with open arms.

They will recognize you and tell you what a wonderful job you have done. Even if you did not aim for these two things, you would still get them automatically. But we get so wrapped up in our own needs that we lose the very thing that we desire.

If you can take your eyes off yourself and pour out to the needs you see in others, then God will provide back to you those deep needs you have.

CHAPTER 02

Ministry or Calling

Chapter 02 - Ministry or Calling

I would like to now consider another word that we use when it comes to ministry. It is a word that is often misunderstood, so I want to explain it and make it clear to you.

Hopefully when I am done you will understand this subject better. Then you can come to a place of being effective in your ministry.

The word I want to discuss is 'calling'. I want to show you that there is a difference between a ministry and a calling.

We tend to look at people who have accomplished great things in life and we consider what they did as their 'calling'. They were destined to do that, and we often see a calling as a kind of destiny.

A calling is that unique thing you were destined to do in this world and in your life. And ministry is not necessarily a calling.

Your ministry could be based on your personal desires. You have deep desires in you of things that you want to accomplish.

Many of these desires are based on your own past experiences. You may desire to help poor people or those who have suffered rejection, simply because you had similar experiences in life.

You have these deep desires in you to do things, but you want to do them in the name of the Lord, using His Word and the abilities that He has given you. You want to be a servant to others and help them by ministering to them.

But it does not take a specific calling for you to carry out such a ministry. Everyone can do things like this.

Everybody can do a ministry, but it does not mean that ministry is your calling. It is not your unique destiny in life; the one thing that you have been set apart to accomplish in this world.

A calling is always different. You can be born with influences that came from your parents. And as you go through life, your experiences begin to build desires into you.

You could have many orientations like this that you are now using in ministry. You may even have had them before you became a Christian.

But a calling is something that is specifically given to you by the Lord. It can never come before you are born again.

Only after you are placed into the Body of Christ and are officially a member of God's family, does He have a specific plan and purpose for your life. It is only now that you have a calling.

Certainly the Lord knew what you were going to do long before you were born. He knew what your calling would be. But you do not actually receive that calling until you are born again.

Now that you are a believer, you know that you are called because the Bible tells us that all believers are called.

What are you called to? Firstly, you are called to salvation, then you are called to become like Jesus. We all share these callings, but you also have something unique.

However, your calling does not always stay in one place. It does not remain static but may be progressively increased over time.

You could start out with a specific calling from God based on the only things you are capable of right now. But as you grow by increasing in knowledge, wisdom and experience, God can trust you with bigger things. So your calling could grow much bigger and increase over time.

Paying the Price

How does this take place? Well the bad news is that there is always a price to pay.

Here is where it becomes very similar to your career. You cannot decide one day to be a doctor and set up your practice. You

cannot become a professional of any kind without qualifying by proving yourself and passing the tests.

You must come to a place where you have been approved to carry out that activity. So in the same way, a calling requires you to pay a price before you can rise up from the lower levels.

But it is not based on your natural abilities. That is why it cannot appear until you are born again. No matter what natural abilities you have or how good you are, these have nothing to do with God's call on your life.

What does God require from someone that He calls? The Scripture is a bit confusing on this, because it says that God has chosen the weak and foolish things of this world to confound the wise.

You may think that you are too weak for God to have big plans for you and a big calling on your life. Yet it may surprise you to know that your weakness is probably what qualifies you for a calling more than anything else.

You may not be very intelligent. You may rather be foolish and naïve, and feel insecure next to more intelligent people doing great things. You might think that the Lord could use them more easily than you.

But the Lord says to you,

"You are the one I am looking for. I don't need you to have any abilities at all, because I have the abilities that you need and I will give the ability to do your calling."

There are only two qualities that you need to qualify for the call of God. They are humility and love, but especially humility.

You should not want to lift yourself up, but you should have a tender heart of love to reach out to others and be used by the Lord. That is all you need.

You may have been thinking,

"I would really love to do great things for God, but I can't be a great preacher. I can't stand up to preach and teach or write great things.

"I don't have any musical talent or anything. How can God use me, because I have nothing to give Him?"

But you will be amazed what God can do with nothing, if you just give it to Him in submission and humility. God can take that and add His part to it to produce that calling in your life.

So learn to understand the difference between ministry and calling. This is important because you may have had a desire burning in you for some time. But is that a ministry or a calling?

You don't really know do you? So how do you go about finding out what your calling is? It is easy to see a desire for ministry, but often that desire is not based on God's call but rather on what you desire to do.

CHAPTER 03

Finding Your Calling

Chapter 03 - Finding Your Calling

Here then is how you go about finding your calling. Firstly, your calling is not based on your natural desires.

We each have different temperamental strengths, as we have seen in our teaching on temperaments. Some temperaments have greater strengths than others. But your temperamental strengths do not decide your calling.

So do not think that because you are temperamentally capable of communicating with others and persuading them, that God will use you to do that kind of thing. People often get confused and they think,

"I am really good at that."

For example a person who is good at listening should surely be a counselor. We assume that a person who has wisdom and is a good listener is obviously called to be a counselor. But these are natural abilities and strengths.

Don't ever confuse them with the call of God. You may also have had some tough times in life. You could have lived a life filled with poverty, sickness and disease or even rejection.

Do not assume that God will call you to minister to other people who have also been through that. If half of your family have died, that does not mean God has called you to minister to bereaved people.

Do not assume that what you experienced in life was God's way of preparing you for your calling. You could certainly do those as a ministry, but that is not your calling.

You do not need an anointing to carry out those ministries. You could use the anointing to help with them, but you do not need the anointing to do them.

Unbelievers often have the same desires burning in them. Many charitable organizations do wonderful things, but they are not

called of God. They are in a World System that does not honor God at all.

So your calling then is not a burning desire within you that is based on your temperamental strengths, your experiences in life, or dreams and visions that you have had. Your calling is unique and you did not have it before you were born again.

It Is Unique

Now here is the part that makes it stand out the clearest. Most other people do not have the same desire as you.

If there is one quality that shows your calling, it is when you suddenly want to do something that others do not want to do. You do not know where that came from, and it doesn't even closely relate to your experiences in life.

You suddenly have a desire to get involved in something that you are unqualified to do. You are incapable of doing it, and you have never had experience with this before.

If that doesn't make sense then it is good. You are well on your way to identifying the call of God, because it is absolutely unique.

Ministry on the other hand is not unique at all. It comes from a burning desire. You may have thought that if you could find your burning core desire you could find what God has put in you.

If that is what burns in you, then surely it was the Lord who put it there? I used to teach this myself, but a burning inner desire does not denote a calling.

Does that mean you cannot fulfill that desire? Would it be wrong to do this as a ministry?

Not at all! In fact if you were to do it with faith, hope and love, God would even anoint you with His power and give you Divine ability to make you a blessing.

He will use you mightily in that ministry and you will prove the Scriptural principle that whatever you sow you will reap. As you give out you will get back and see results.

You may say, "I have found my ministry," but you have not yet found your calling.

So what do you do? Do you stand and wait for your calling before you do anything?

That is a common mistake we make. It could take you a long time to find your calling, because the unfolding of that calling is a progressive thing.

You should start where you are, with all the desires that burn in you, and begin to fulfill those as a ministry. Then as you continue to do ministry you will find yourself progressively coming to a place where your calling becomes clearer.

Where to Start

Where do you start? There is a simple Scripture that says,

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.

What is available to you right now that you can do for the Lord? Look around and see people with needs that you can help with and get involved in right now. Start doing whatever is there.

You may say to me,

"But what if that is not my calling?"

Does it matter? The Lord will still bless it, and you will have a tremendous sense of achievement and satisfaction by having poured out, helped and ministered to other people.

And who knows whether God will use that to lead you progressively into finally uncovering your calling.

I often use the picture of a moving ship. Many people are like a ship, sitting in harbor and asking the Lord which way to go.

They think that if God turns their rudder they will get moving. But even if He did turn the rudder you would not notice it. You would continue waiting.

The only way to steer a ship is to get it moving. Go in any direction. It does not matter. Find something to do and get doing it.

The Lord will step in and start to change your rudder. Suddenly you will find yourself veering off into a whole new direction.

You may wonder what is happening. You started doing one thing and ended up doing something else. Then suddenly a new opportunity opened up for you to do something totally unrelated to what you were doing.

You could try many things before you start coming to that place where you know that this is where you should be.

Chewing Rubber

I have often shared the story of the boy who chewed rubber, and I will share it again here.

I read a story once of a little boy who kept chewing on rubber. He chewed on pencil erasers and any kind of rubber he could find. His parents thought something was wrong and had him tested medically.

After doing some tests they discovered that his body was lacking in sulphur, and it seems that rubber has a lot of sulphur in it. So each time he chewed on rubber he was supplying what his body needed.

Now he did not know anything about sulphur. And nobody taught him to eat rubber, because rubber is not food. But before he tasted rubber he chewed on everything he could get his hands on.

If you have had a baby you will know that a baby puts everything into its mouth. He kept chewing on things until one day he chewed on rubber, and something inside of him said,

"That tastes good. Let's try it again."

He kept doing it again and again and chewed up all the rubber he could find.

Sometimes finding your calling also works this way. Get chewing on everything you can find.

Do what burns in you and what does not burn in you. Do what other people are doing and whatever you can find as an opportunity to do something as a ministry for the Lord.

Keep doing it, and one day you will find that suddenly something drops into place and you think to yourself,

"I seem to be moving in a very unique direction here that most other people are not moving in. I feel really good about it though. I feel comfortable doing it and I am getting results."

That could be the first sign that you are finding your calling.

Putting It Together

Realize that your calling is a supernatural thing that God will give you, and He will progressively unfold it to you. Then you can go beyond that and receive specific revelation.

God may decide to use someone to give you a prophetic word. He may give you a dream or a vision or a personal revelation to confirm to you exactly what that calling is.

Then when you find that calling, you can set sail, pull out all the stops and head in that direction. You can do this until God chooses to increase it or change it. Remember that the calling is progressive and can be increased.

The important thing then is to firstly recognize the differences between ministry and calling. Look deep inside and discover all the desires that burn in you.

Get moving with those until you find yourself becoming more focused and you get inner or outer revelation. Then you will

eventually come to the place where you will find your Ministry Calling.

Only when these two come together are you ready to do real ministry. We will look in the next chapters at ways in which we can fulfill different kinds of ministry, and the tools that God gives us to do this.

We will consider some of the higher level ministries and how God promotes people up to different levels of calling.

By the time we are done, you should be able to find out exactly what your calling is and know what you should be doing.

You will know what main ministry you should be doing, and you will be able to come to a place where God can increase you and use you more and more. Then you can fulfill that 'spiritual career' that you desire.

SECTION 02 – LEVELS OF MINISTRY

CHAPTER 04

The Godhead in Ministry

Section 02 – Levels of Ministry

Chapter 04 – The Godhead in Ministry

We continue now in this study on Ministry Made Easy with a look at the levels of ministry.

We considered some of the differences between ministry and calling. I want to expand this subject now and discuss the ministry in more detail. You will see that there are different levels of ministry.

The most important thing you need to realize about ministry, is that ministry is **man working with God** to make things happen in the earth. Ministry involves us as believers making ourselves available to the Lord and letting Him work through us in this world.

If you want to find out where to start in your ministry, where you are going and what you should be doing, you cannot do it without the Lord. God is an integral part of what we do in ministry.

How God is Manifested

In my book on Bible Doctrine Made Easy we saw that God is manifested in three different ways. He is a Father, a Son and a Holy Spirit, and when we become Christians we begin to relate to God in all of these aspects of His being.

Each of these manifestations of God leads to a different kind of ministry. So when you look at the three members of the Godhead, you see firstly that we have the Lord Jesus, and under Him there is a certain level of ministry.

Then we have the Holy Spirit, and He is involved in a different aspect of ministry. And finally we have God the Father, the director and originator of all things. He is also involved with us and takes us to a different level of ministry.

I will show you as we go through this subject that it starts with Jesus. Then we add the Holy Spirit, and finally we move up to the Father.

As a believer this is exactly your experience. When you were first saved, the first one you came to know was the Lord Jesus.

Does this mean that you never experienced the Holy Spirit? No, it was actually the Holy Spirit that caused the New Birth to take place in you.

Did you experience the Father? Yes the Father was there, because He is the one who manifested Himself in and through Jesus.

You always have all three together. You don't have one without the other, but usually you deal with only one at a time.

So when it comes to ministry, you will find that your early ministry experiences are directed more under the influence of the Lord Jesus, because He is the one you got to know when you were born again.

Later on you find out that there is a little more involved in getting to know the Lord. There is the power of the Holy Spirit that is available to you.

Then you slowly move beyond just knowing Jesus as your Lord and Savior. You realize that there is a Holy Spirit who wants to work with you and give you power and strength to do awesome things.

Once you get to know Jesus really well, and you get to know the Holy Spirit really well, you are finally ready to come to the place where you are prepared to face the Holy Father Himself. Now you can communicate with Him.

Many Christians never go much further than Jesus in their spiritual lives, and they do not get to know the Holy Spirit.

There are others who get to know the Holy Spirit really well, but they never come into that real place of intimacy in the Throne Room with Father God Himself.

When you first start out in ministry, your relationship with God and each member of the Godhead will decide what kind of ministry you become involved in.

From the moment you are born again and you get to know the Lord Jesus as Savior, you start getting involved in a certain level of ministry. This ministry is available to every person who is born again, but at this stage you do not know much about the supernatural.

You have been born again and something magnificent has taken place inside your spirit; something miraculous and not natural at all.

It is spiritual and supernatural. But as you now come to doing something as a Christian, you do not know much about the supernatural at all. You only know that Jesus is your Savior.

You have a peace within and you begin to experience His love. Your whole life changes, you find joy and happiness, and many good things come into your life.

But you have not touched much on the supernatural. So your first ministry involvements in doing things for the Lord are not that supernatural. They tend to be almost natural and normal; the kind of thing that anyone can do.

Body Ministries

Paul gives us a list of the kind of ministry involvements you can have. You can read about them in Romans Chapter 12, verses 5 to 8.

I will not be including big passages of Scripture in these teachings, but you should go and look them up.

We have an online Bible program called the GBM Online Bible which you can use for this purpose. There you can look up all Scriptures on the subjects taught in these lectures.

Let's look first then at Jesus and what I like to call the Body Ministries.

When you think of ministry, most people have the picture of someone who goes into a job as a career. He or she goes to Bible School and then into 'full time ministry'.

That is one of the higher levels of ministry and we will look at that later. But according to the Bible, every one of us, from the moment we are born again has become a member of the Body of Christ.

This is a picture of the Body, where just as the body consists of many members all joined together to make one person, so each of us also is like a different member of this invisible body, which is the Church of God all over the world.

Together with Jesus we make up the Body of Christ. Now that we have become a member of the Body, every one of us has something that we can do.

If you are a hand it does a certain kind of thing, while the foot does a different kind of thing. Nose, eyes and ears and each part of the body, all have different functions and they all work together.

Sadly though, the idea of ministry up until now has been that ministry is only for ministers. We think that these are people who have been trained and are specialists, and they are the only ones who can do the ministry.

For the rest of us ordinary believers, our ministry is to sit in church on Sunday and listen to the minister preach. Our ministry then becomes doing whatever the minister tells us to do.

Most of the time all you will be told to do are things that do not need the Lord's help much at all. In many churches the best you can hope to do is become an usher or deacon; the one who hands out song sheets or puts transparencies on the overhead.

As a believer God has a function for each of us to do. This is not only something we do on Sunday when we are at church. It is something we do all the time, wherever we are, every day of the week, throughout our lives.

We are available to the Lord to do something, and whatever we do will involve working with other people. Ministry is **always** working with other people. It is like being a waiter or server; serving other people.

CHAPTER 05

Starting With Body Ministry

Chapter 05 – Starting With Body Ministry

Body Ministry 1 - Serving

As you look at the Body Ministries that Paul listed for us, one of the first ones he mentions is 'serving'. This is something that we can all do, and it means that we are available to help other people.

Instead of having others running around to do things for us, we say,

"I want to do something for the Lord."

In fact we call this 'serving the Lord'. One of the best ways of serving the Lord is to serve one of His children.

The Lord Jesus is up in Heaven right now. When He was on this earth He walked in an earthly body and He could reach out and touch people to help them.

But now that He is gone, He wants us to take His place on this earth and to do the kind of things that He did. You can go around helping people and serving them.

You may be wondering,

"What is my ministry?"

Or, "What can I do for ministry?"

If this describes you, then the first thing you should do is look around you and see if there is someone that you can serve. Who is there that you can help and do something for?

The moment you do that with the love of the Lord in your heart, so that you can show people the love of the Lord, you are doing ministry. It may be a very low level ministry, but it is a ministry and it is a Body Ministry under the direction of the Lord Jesus.

Body Ministry 2 – Teaching

The next kind of ministry Paul mentions is teaching.

Now you might think that in order to be a teacher you will need to go to university and get a degree first.

We always tend to think 'professional' don't we? But really teaching simply means taking all the knowledge you have learned about the Lord and the Bible, and sharing it with other people.

What can you teach?

The first thing you can do is to teach those out there who do not know Jesus, how to get saved. That is a simple evangelistic thrust, and we will look more at that later.

Teaching is simply taking the Word and sharing it with other people. So after finding someone to serve, look for someone that you can help with your knowledge. Then make an effort to try and impart some of your knowledge to them.

That is a very simple ministry that you can do anywhere and anytime. It is not your 'function in the church meeting'. It is what you do every day as a Christian.

Body Ministry 3 – Encouragement

What about this one? How far do you need to look to find someone who needs encouragement?

You probably won't even need to leave your house. Get up in the morning and you will probably find at least one person in the family who is feeling down. How much more when you go to school, work or wherever your daily duties take you.

You bump into people all the time who are feeling down and discouraged. What is the best way to encourage somebody? Surely it is by sharing the Lord with them, flowing out with a heart of love and saying,

"Let me pray for you. I believe the Lord wants to help you in your situation and lift you up."

You just need to be there to give them a smile or a friendly word and say something positive. You do all of this as Jesus.

In all of these things, try to imagine that Jesus is walking with you and living inside of you, because He is. As you go, ask Him,

"Lord what do you want to do for this person?"

He will tell you something like,

"Serve them, teach them and encourage them."

These are all ministries under the direction of the Lord Jesus.

Body Ministry 4 – Giving

Unless you are a mean Scrooge, you might want to get involved in the ministry of giving. There are always people in need all around you.

You don't have to look far. What is your usual approach if you walk down the street and a beggar asks you for money? Do you tell him,

"Go away you lazy bum and get a job! You only want my money so you can go and get drunk."

That might be true, but it is a good place to start practicing ministry. You may have been complaining and saying,

"I don't know where I can get involved in ministry. I don't have an outlet for ministry."

Look around you. There are always people asking you for something. If you can just give out in the love of the Lord you have started a ministry.

You may complain that you don't want to spend your whole life doing that, but I did not suggest that this was your calling. It is

a Body ministry and something that you can get involved in right away. I am sure you are able to do that.

Body Ministry 5 – Leading or Ruling

Some people are better at leading than others. That is why I said at the beginning that these are not necessarily supernatural, but they can be very natural.

If you have natural leadership capabilities then you can help other people by leading them in how they should serve the Lord. The very first leading you can do is to lead someone to the Lord.

Even if you think you cannot be a leader, you can at least lead someone to the Lord. How do you do that? You simply speak to them about the Lord and say to them,

"Let me take you and show you the Lord."

Then you can lead them to the Lord. It means that you are taking initiative. In a way you are motivating and influencing people in their spiritual lives. Hopefully in the future the Lord has a calling for you that will lift you up into higher leadership levels.

What is the best place to start? Start right where you are and see how you can influence people in a leadership role in ministry.

Body Ministry 6 – Showing Compassion

Showing compassion is very specific kind of activity that mixes some of the others together. It means that when you look at people who have problems in life - people who are suffering, sick or mentally retarded - your heart is stirred inside you.

You want to help people like that. There are a lot of people out there who do not know the Lord Jesus and who are doing work like this all the time.

Once again this is very naturalistic. But how much better it is when we are doing it to show people that Jesus loves them?

This is not only because your heart is stirred, or because you grew up in a home where you suffered lack; not because you had bad experiences and feel sorry for others who have had the same.

Anybody can do that. But it is when the heart of the Lord and His love burn strongly inside you, and you want to cry out for these people. You want to help them and minister to them.

These may all be very naturalistic things, but they are the start of a ministry. If you will only open your eyes and look around you, you will see that there are so many people all around you that you can minister to right away.

Body Ministry 7 – Prophecy

This is the first one that sounds like it is supernatural, and it is up to a point. I do not believe though that this speaks of the ministry of the prophet yet. It speaks about using your words to speak and tell other people what God thinks or says.

You will find that after you become a Christian you are so excited to share the Lord with people. I am sure you have found yourself in a situation where you meet unbelievers and you start to share the Lord with them.

As you do this, something comes up inside of you. You find yourself talking and sharing as Scriptures come back to your memory. There comes an explosion from inside of you and a flow takes place. Afterwards you think to yourself,

"Wow, where did all that come from? That was awesome; I felt a surge that was just pouring out of me."

What happened was all that you had inside of you poured out as you ministered and spoke God's words to that person.

You can do the same thing with encouragement or teaching using the words you speak. Prophecy can simply mean 'inspired preaching' or 'inspired speaking'.

We tend to think of prophecy as an utterance that we give spontaneously like,

"Thus saith the Lord, behold I am with you tonight my child!"

It sounds spiritual doesn't it? But why can you not simply say to the person,

"Do you know that Jesus really loves you, and He is with you right now? He is sitting right next to you and He wants to put His arms around you and show you that He loves you."

Is that any different to saying:

"Thus saith the Lord, behold I am with you. I put my arms around you my child, and I love you."

The only difference is that you are sharing it from your heart. But it is the same as a prophetic word.

If you want to be used in prophecy, then start by learning to just speak to people what you know Jesus would say to them if He were there. We will deal more with prophecy later in this book.

If you can start with that, then you can move on into an actual ministry of prophecy. But to do that, you will need the next level of ministry.

Adding the Holy Spirit

You will need the Holy Spirit, because all of the natural ministries can only take you so far. You need an extra piece of power; something supernatural to add to it. You almost want Jesus Himself to appear to you and show His power.

You can reach out and try to bring healing, and under showing compassion you might even be offering medical treatment. But you need that supernatural power, where if you could just lay your hands on them and speak healing, God would do it and add to it.

The way we do that is by adding the Holy Spirit to the work of Jesus. We combine together the Ministries and the Gifts of the Spirit.

What are the Gifts of the Spirit? There are nine of them, and we will study them in detail under the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit.

There are the Vocal Gifts, the Revelation Gifts and the Power Gifts.

The Vocal Gifts include the ability to speak in tongues, the ability to interpret tongues, and the speaking of prophetic utterance.

The Revelation Gifts are the gift of the word of wisdom, which has a future orientation.

You have the word of knowledge, which tells us about the past and the present. And you have the discerning of spirits, which helps us to detect when there are demon powers present.

The Power Gifts are faith, which allows us to supernaturally believe for the impossible and to do wonderful things for the Lord. There are also miracles and healings.

If we can add those to the Body Ministries, we start putting together something far more powerful. So you start with the Body Ministries and begin where you are.

This is the starting point for your ministry. And as you try these things, you are like the little boy who chewed on everything until he found the rubber. Once he found that one he discovered that he preferred it to all the others.

You may find that as you do some of these things, several of them (seldom only one) will seem to grab you more than others.

You will feel more comfortable with those and want to do them more. After that, as your heart begins to burn within, you will begin to cry out,

"Lord, if only I had more supernatural power and ability to do this. Oh Lord, I need the power of your Holy Spirit."

It is around this time that you suddenly realize that Jesus alone is not enough. He is wonderful and you love Him. You have an awesome relationship with Him and He makes you feel good when you are down.

But suddenly you realize that you need something more. You need the power of the Holy Spirit. Only then are you open to move into the Gifts of the Spirit.

How do you do that? This will require a longer study so we will cover it in the next chapter. We will look at the Holy Spirit and the gifts next.

You will learn how to enter into and receive the gifts of the Spirit, and how you can start adding the Gifts of the Spirit to the Body Ministries. You will see that as you do that, some of those ministries will come to life in a powerful way.

They will now move from being largely natural to more supernatural, until they become even more supernatural. Then you will begin to see a clear ministry that is being controlled by both the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit working together through you.

This will lead you up higher, just as I shared that the revelation of our calling is progressive. You start with the lower levels and progress upwards. The higher levels will be up where the Father is involved and we will learn this as we go through this study.

Next we will see how the first two combine together to form specific ministries that the Bible talks about. Then I will show you the highest level of ministry that the Father is in control of.

After that I will cover what you have probably been waiting for; the answer to the question,

"How do I go about doing this? Please show me how."

We will look at how you can be trained for the ministry.

SECTION 03 – NECESSITIES FOR MINISTRY

CHAPTER 06

The Purpose for Ministry

Section 03 – Necessities for Ministry

Chapter 06 – The Purpose for Ministry

I would like to look now at what you will need to do the work of the ministry. We looked previously at the fact that we need not only the Lord Jesus, but also the work of the Holy Spirit, and then ultimately the work of the Father.

All three together will take us to our ultimate goal and level in ministry. We will continue this theme for now before completing this teaching.

What I want to look at now is everything that you will need to do ministry, so that you have a clearer understanding of what ministry is.

To make it clear I would like to illustrate it with the following example. Imagine someone who needs ministry, and remember that ministry means serving others.

What is our purpose for carrying out ministry? God wants to do things in the life of every human being. He has a plan and purpose, because God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.

God wants to bless and make available to every single human being the wonderful blessings that He has created for man. So He wants to pour out His blessing on them.

This person may be outside of Christ and does not know God. He or she could also be a young believer who has not come to a great experience of God, so they can go directly to Him to receive everything that they need.

So God needs to use somebody else to pour His blessing into that person. Who is that someone else? That's right, it is you. You are the one that God will use to bless this person.

Definition of Ministry

What God will do is to pour into you, and you in turn will pour out towards that person. That in effect is all that is involved in ministry. Ministry is receiving from God, taking what you have received and pouring it out to other people.

There is nothing complicated about this, but we tend to make it so difficult. But there is a lot involved, and there are many things that you will need before you can do this effectively.

So that is what I want to consider in more detail in this book. I want to look at exactly what you need in order to be used by God to bless other people; to release towards others what God wants to do in their lives.

The Spirit and the Word

There are two main things that you will need, and which God has given us to use. If you like they are two main tools that you must make use of, in order to be used by God to do the work of the ministry.

The first one is the Bible, which is also called the Scriptures or simply The Word. The Word of God is one of our main tools for doing the work of the ministry.

God has also given us something else. He has given us His Holy Spirit. We looked at that earlier, and now I am going to look at this in more detail as we consider exactly what God has given us through the Holy Spirit. We usually refer to the Holy Spirit simply as the Spirit.

These are two basic tools that God has given every Christian, and especially those who want to be used by the Lord in ministry.

He has given us the Spirit and the Word. You need nothing more than these two in order to do the work of the ministry and to do it well.

That might sound somewhat simplistic, but there is more to the Spirit and the Word than we realize. Before you can use the Word you need to **know** it.

How do you learn to know the Word of God?

Firstly you can learn the theory. You could get theoretical knowledge of the Word by reading it. But there are 66 books there with a lot of doctrines and teachings.

The Bible as a Jungle

I like to picture the Bible as being a wild jungle, like say the Amazon jungle, where there is tropical growth everywhere. As you walk through it you see every kind of plant and tree scattered everywhere.

It was not planted by man and laid out in rows. You don't have all the peach trees in one row and the apple trees in another row; the carrots and beans in their own little section. This is how we would do it in farming.

But here it is all growing wild and all the plants are scattered everywhere. If you were to walk through the jungle you would see a plant. Then as you walk further you might see the same plant again somewhere else.

You might even see another species of the same kind of plant - all of them scattered everywhere.

So if you were to go into that jungle and try to understand everything growing there by studying all the plants, you could spend a lifetime doing that.

But what if someone who knows a bit about botany or biology has gone ahead of you and studied the plants? He would come back to you and say,

"Do you see this plant here with the red berries?"

Then he would tell you what the plant is called and all the characteristics of that plant. He would tell you that it is scattered all over the jungle and looks different at times.

Now you have learned from someone who has gone and done some studying. You can take a guidebook with you into the jungle, and when you see something, you can look it up in the book and identify it.

You can see what kind of plant it is. And if it is poisonous you will know that it should not be touched. Without this knowledge you could learn the hard way by eating poisonous berries and dying.

The Bible is just like that; it is a garden of truth. Many people think that they can learn what is in the Bible simply by reading it. You could spend your life doing this and still not fully understand some of the deeper truths of the Bible.

God has raised up those to whom He has given a teaching ability, and there are those who have studied the Bible. But some people have even more than this, and this is what you need. You need experience.

Theory and Experience

You need to learn both theory and experience. You need to live what is taught in the Bible before you can understand it. Sometimes it is only when you have lived something that it comes back to your mind.

You may remember reading something in the Bible but you did not fully understand what it meant. But now that you have come across a problem, done something you regret, or accidentally done the right thing, you suddenly understand what that Scripture meant.

So there are two kinds of knowledge of the Word you must gain. There is theoretical knowledge and experimental knowledge.

The Gifts and the Fruit of the Spirit

When it comes to the Holy Spirit there are also two aspects that you need to learn. We touched on the first one earlier, which is known as the Gifts of the Spirit. We saw that there were nine of these.

But there is another aspect of the Holy Spirit as well, which the Bible calls the Fruit of the Spirit.

It is interesting that there are also nine of those. So there are nine gifts and nine fruits, and both are aspects of the Holy Spirit that we need to learn and use.

We combine this with a theoretical and experimental knowledge of the Scriptures. Then as the Spirit and the Word combine together, God is empowered to work through us to minister to other people. When this happens we can carry out the work of the ministry effectively.

I would like to look now at how we go about developing each of these. We will start first with the Holy Spirit.

CHAPTER 07

The Doorway to the Gifts

Chapter 07 - The Doorway to the Gifts

How do you go about receiving this tool of the Holy Spirit?

You did receive the Holy Spirit when you accepted Jesus as your Savior and were born again. He came to stay and live inside your spirit forever.

But you have not experienced the power of the Holy Spirit until you walk through a doorway. This doorway is known as the baptism or anointing of the Holy Spirit.

This is a big subject on its own, and we will cover it under the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit and the Doctrine of the Anointing. But I will touch on this briefly here without going into too much detail.

You must go through that doorway. It is not automatically available when you are born again.

You have to pass through that doorway and break through into a new relationship with the Holy Spirit. Until then you cannot fully function in these gifts and fruits.

This does not mean that God cannot fully use you. It does not mean that you cannot see any manifestation of these things. But until you have received that anointing and learned to flow in it, these things cannot come to life within you.

This applies especially when you go out to do the work of the ministry.

How do you go about getting this Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the anointing that you need? Firstly you should really want it. I have heard people saying,

"If God wanted me to have it He would give it to me, so I will wait until He gives it to me. And since He has not given it to me yet, He obviously does not want me to have it."

Earnest Desire

The Scripture says we must earnestly desire these things. God gives us things according to what we desire. He never imposes Himself on us in any way. So if you want to have the power of the Holy Spirit, you have to reach out and receive it.

I will teach on that in detail when we deal with that subject alone.

You must desire to be used by God for these things to be in your life. Then you will find that all of these are empowered by one very important quality, which is love. There is a Scripture that brings these two together. Paul said,

Follow after (pursue, chase) love, and then earnestly desire spiritual gifts.

That word earnestly is a bit stronger than you saying,

"I think it would be great if I had spiritual gifts. It would be cool. I would love God to use me in the spiritual gifts. That would really be nice."

That is just ordinary desire, not earnest desire. Earnest desire is something much stronger than that. It is what we call a 'core desire'; a passion that gets you to the point where you say,

"I've got to have it! I want it now and I will not give up until I get it."

That is the kind of desire that moves God. If you do not earnestly desire the power of God or His anointing, then you will not get it.

God will not force something on you that you do not want. He is a Gentleman, and He does not impose His will on us.

Experience

So the baptism of the Holy Spirit opens the door to the Gifts of the Spirit. But what opens the door to the Fruit of the Spirit?

This is a little thing called experience. The Fruit of the Spirit comes about when you learn to do what the Bible calls 'walking in the Spirit'.

That word walking can be illustrated by what you see when you visit the military and you see soldiers marching together in rank. You see them going,

"Left, right, left, right, left, right..."

Usually there is a sergeant or someone walking next to them and shouting out the commands. If you have ever been in the army you will know that sound.

The key is that you must walk 'in step'. And to experience the Fruit of the Spirit you must come to a place where you learn to walk in step with the Holy Spirit. That means you must be able to hear His instructions and then obey those instructions.

That is all it means to walk in the Spirit. When you first accept Jesus as your Savior you are not even aware that the Holy Spirit is there because you have not heard His voice yet. It takes experience and spiritual growth to learn this.

Over time you get to know the voice of the Holy Spirit within you. It certainly helps to put more Scripture in. The Scriptures help you to understand the impressions that come up out of your spirit.

It takes experience to walk in the Spirit and use the Fruit of the Spirit. So you need to follow after love, which is a possible subject on its own. Then you need to earnestly desire or passionately want the power of God and the gifts of the Spirit.

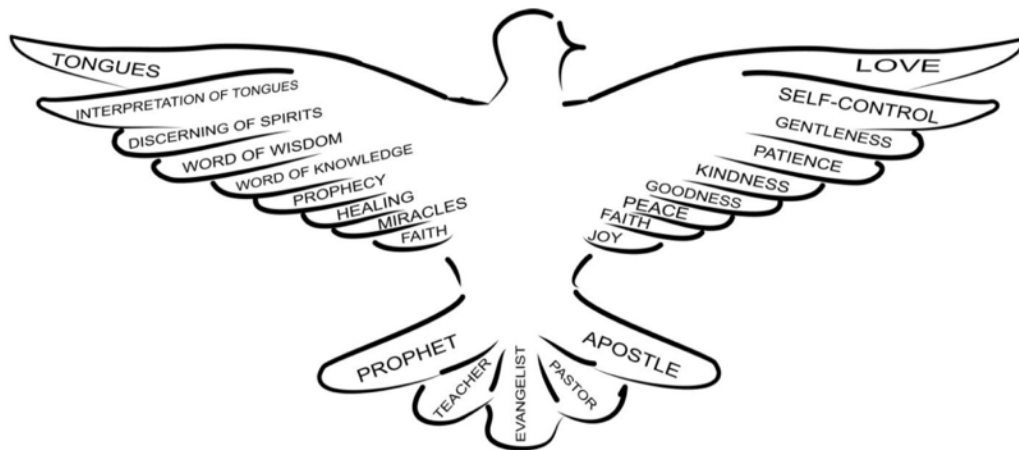
Finally you must learn to hear the voice of God and walk in the Spirit. You need to experience God and come to know Him better before you come to the place where the Fruit of the Spirit is manifested in your life. Then you come to a place where the gifts and the fruit are both manifested.

The Picture of a Dove

One of the best ways of illustrating this is to realize that it all comes from the Holy Spirit. And one of the most common pictures of the Holy Spirit is the picture of a dove.

Imagine a picture of a dove with its wings outstretched. There are nine feathers on each of the wings of the dove. Consider one wing as being the nine Gifts of the Spirit and the other the nine the Fruits of the Spirit.

Example: Two Wings of the Dove



For a dove to fly correctly it needs both the wings. A dove flying with one wing is like someone trying to swim with one hand. You could go around in circles and get nowhere.

Some people seem to think that we do not need both the Gifts and the Fruit of the Spirit.

Some think that the most important thing is the Gifts, the power and the glory. They get hyped up on the power and the anointing; the glory, the miraculous, and the supernatural.

They think that this is all that counts in ministry because it is exciting stuff. They love to experience that exciting realm of God.

They love the awesome things that take place in the Holy Spirit, when the power of God comes upon you and the Gifts of the Spirit start to manifest.

Then you have another group who are afraid of the Gifts of the Spirit. Some are so afraid of it, that they have made a doctrine that says the Gifts of the Spirit have been done away with and are not needed anymore.

They say that what we really need is the Fruit of the Spirit, because that is far more important. They want to do away with the power, because it is only the fruit that counts.

They are simply flapping on the other wing of the dove. But God wants us to have both of these together in order to be effective in ministry. Both wings should be flapping together for you to have the full power of the Spirit manifesting in and through you.

That is how God will be able to pour into you and out through you to other people, in order to carry out the work of the ministry.

Seven Feathers for Ministry

If you look at the nine feathers on each side, you will find that in both cases there are two feathers that you can use mostly for you. The other seven you use more for other people.

You will see that in both the Gifts of the Spirit and the Fruit of the Spirit. The number seven is God's perfect number.

So why did God choose nine and only reserve seven of those for ministry? Perhaps it is because He was kind enough to let us use two of them for ourselves.

Some people make the mistake of thinking that if they get the power of the Holy Spirit it becomes a wonderful experience. They go to revival meetings where the power of God is manifested, so that they can shake under the power and fall under the power.

They like to experience the awesome 'highs' that we get when the Holy Spirit comes on us, because this is what the Holy Spirit

does. But I want you to see that each of these two things takes place through a different kind of operation and relationship that we have with the Holy Spirit.

I want to look briefly at the nine and show you what these two relationships with the Holy Spirit are. They are taught in detail under the Doctrine of the Anointing, but I will mention them here for you to understand them.

CHAPTER 08

The Internal and External Anointing

Chapter 08 - The Internal and External Anointing

The first relationship is known as the Internal Anointing, because it comes from deep down inside of you. It comes from deep within your spirit where the Holy Spirit dwells.

The Internal Anointing is like a deep underground stream that you can drill down to and tap into. Then you can pump the water until it gushes out.

The second is known as the External Anointing. This is what we usually see as the power of God and the anointing. This is the one that brings the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, the supernatural and the signs and wonders.

It produces the goose bump feelings that we get and is like a downpour of gushing rain. The Scriptures often speak of God pouring down His blessing, and we sometimes think of the anointing of God as coming down on us.

On the Day of Pentecost they heard the sound of a mighty rushing wind, and it came down upon them. Even in the Old Testament you will see that the Scriptures often use the term, 'the Spirit came upon them'.

So the Holy Spirit can rise up from deep inside you, and the Holy Spirit can come down upon you.

Each of these different relationships of the Holy Spirit in us gives rise to a different wing. We must have both of them together before we can be fully effective for the Lord.

What then are the nine things that come through? Under the external we have the nine Gifts of the Spirit which are:

1. Tongues
2. Interpretation of Tongues
3. Prophecy
4. Word of Wisdom
5. Word of Knowledge

6. Discerning of Spirits
7. Faith
8. Miracles
9. Healings

There are also nine Fruits of the Spirit under the internal, which are:

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Faith
8. Gentleness
9. Self-Control

As you look at these you will see that on both sides there are two that God has given mostly for us and that we use within ourselves. The others are used mostly to pour out to others, but we can use those two for ourselves.

Ours to Use

If you look at the Gifts of the Spirit, the gift of tongues is mostly for us to use for ourselves. It is used for prayer and to build ourselves up spiritually.

The gift of faith also enables us to come to a place of believing God for the impossible. It empowers us to do amazing things for God; to believe God and have things happen, both in our lives and in the lives of others. That then leaves seven which are used mainly for others.

When you come to the Fruit of the Spirit, you will see that love should always be poured out to others.

Joy should be contagious and should be spread around, but peace is something that affects your own heart. It takes place within you and is what the Bible calls the peace of God that passes understanding.

Patience certainly has to do with how we handle people, and kindness is always something we show to others. Goodness means giving out or being generous, and that also involves people.

What is faith? It is the ability to believe, not only in you, but also to believe in others.

Some people call it faithfulness, but essentially it is not exactly the same as the gift of faith which gives a supernatural ability. This is an active faith where you are able to have faith in others.

Then there is gentleness, which again concerns how we handle people. Self-control on the other hand is something that helps you to get a hold of yourself. So here again we see two that are used mainly for ourselves, but the other seven are used for others.

Here are the two wings – the nine feathers, with seven main ways or different manifestations of the anointing.

These come under two main headings: the Internal Anointing and the External Anointing. We need both of them in order to minister effectively, and we need at least all seven on both sides for us to affect other people.

You may think that you only need the supernatural power of God to do the work of the ministry. Pentecostals and Charismatics always like to sit on that side. They say,

"As long as we can be used by God in the Gifts of the Spirit and have the power and anointing, we can minister effectively and God will touch peoples' lives."

Getting Others to Receive From You

Yes this is true, but how do you get people to come to the place where they are ready to receive from you?

There is One person who walked this earth and who carried more anointing than anybody else in this world. He was God in human

flesh, and according to the Bible He had the anointing without any limitation or restriction.

But when Jesus came to His hometown as a normal man, the Bible says that He couldn't do many miracles there. He could not perform any signs and wonders and He couldn't even really minister to the people.

They looked at Him and said,

"Who does he think he is? We know him; he's just the carpenter's son. He grew up amongst us here and we have no confidence in him."

If people do not have confidence in you and are not prepared to receive from you, then it does not matter how much power you have to give them. It will not affect them.

It is not enough to have all the power of God to do the work of the ministry. It is not even enough to have all the knowledge of the Scriptures and the experience of life.

You need to have some kind of power that will open the hearts of the people. They need to be ready to receive from you, and then from God in you.

That is what the Internal Anointing is about. That is what the Fruit of the Spirit is about.

Using Love

You need to approach people using the Holy Spirit's ability and the power of love. Love is like a light that shines in the darkness. It opens people's hearts wide, and they will not look at you and say,

"I don't think you are educated enough. I don't think you are talented enough. I don't trust you."

This world is so lacking in love, and you come with a love that people have never seen. You cannot love that way without the Lord. You need that supernatural love which comes from the

Internal Anointing. And when you love people that way they open their hearts wide.

We need to come with joy. It is a miserable, negative world in which we live, so we need to lift people up and spread joy. We need a sense of humor and we should help people to laugh. It will open their hearts wide.

You need to also be patient with them and you need to be kind. You need to be generous, because if you give to someone they feel obligated to give back to you.

If you give someone a gift, they will be more ready to open their hearts to receive. You need to believe in people and you should be very gentle in how you handle them.

None of these things come naturally no matter how hard you try. There are many in the world in charitable organizations that seem to be doing these things. But they are not really doing it because they have selfish motives.

Only with God's anointing and His Spirit flowing out from deep inside you, can you do these things unselfishly as a blessing to others, to show them that God is in you.

When they see this pouring out from you they say,

"That is not natural. Nobody has treated me that way before. This person has something special. I should pay attention to it and open my heart to receive."

Releasing the Anointing

So you can see that we get the two sides together by following after love and earnestly desiring spiritual gifts. Then all we need to do is go out and release it.

How do you let it out? You do it in two simple ways: through the words that you speak and the actions that you carry out.

Is that not what ministry is? Ministry is speaking to people and putting it into action. You do it by not only telling them about God, but showing them what God's love is like.

We show them through our lives, using our experience and all that God has given us. We show them what God looks like and draw them to Him. And when we do this we meet all their needs.

These are the things that you will need before you can even begin to do ministry. But how do you go about getting these things? How do you obtain knowledge of the Scriptures and the power of the Holy Spirit?

As I already said, you could study the Bible alone. But you need someone else to teach you beyond that, and for this God has given the Teaching Ministry to the Church.

You could pray alone and wait on God for the power of the Holy Spirit, but God also uses others to impart the power that they have received to you.

If you wish to rise up to the kind of levels of authority that are possible with the call of God, you need far more than getting alone in your closet, waiting on God and reading your Bible.

You will see by the end of this teaching how high you can really go. For now you must understand the basic things that you need before you can do the work of the ministry.

We will look shortly at how you can be trained to get ready and start doing the work of the ministry.

SECTION 04 – PREPARING FOR MINISTRY

CHAPTER 09

Progressive Understanding

Section 04 - Preparing For Ministry

Chapter 09 – Progressive Understanding

We come now to the most important part of this whole teaching series. Then I will show you as we end it off, how to actually prepare yourself and be trained to do the work of the ministry.

But before we get into that, I want to put some final touches on the subject to help you understand where you are headed and what your ultimate goal is.

Remember at the beginning of this study I said that there is a difference between a ministry and a calling. You need to understand every possibility that is available to you.

The Right Place to Start

Calling is a progressive, unfolding understanding and revelation of how high you will go in your ministry level. In other words, you can start ministering - and most people do - without even knowing what your calling is.

It is not very often that a person gets a revelation up front of what their calling is. I know from my own personal experience, that for years before I went into ministry, I wanted God to show me what my calling was.

I remember the first time I was in a meeting where someone was operating in a prophetic ministry. He was calling people out and prophesying over them.

He was telling them various things about God's purpose for their life. I waited anxiously and thought,

"Come on Lord, let him call me and prophesy over me and tell me what my calling is."

But he did not notice me, or at least that is what it looked like.

I figured that I obviously was not very important to the Lord and did not have a very big calling, otherwise he would have called me out. If it was important to the Lord, surely He could have told this prophet what my ministry was?

It took me a long time to find out that the opposite was true. My calling was far higher than that prophet had ever been himself, and he would never have understood what my calling was.

So do not get hung up on the calling issue. I will show you before we end how to go about this.

You have to start somewhere in ministry. You need to work your way through the possibilities, until you find that thing you chew on that tastes like the rubber and you know you have found your place. Then you will have found your calling.

The Lower Level Ministries

We have been looking at the various levels of ministry, starting with those that begin when we are born again and we have a relationship with the Lord Jesus. Then we saw that it worked up, and we would add to it the influence of the Holy Spirit.

We saw that by adding the Holy Spirit to those basic foundational ministry types, we would add the Gifts and the Fruit of the Spirit. These are two different kinds of empowerment or anointing.

These influences from the Holy Spirit would then help us to add power to our ministry. We can do it better and more effectively.

Many people do not go any further than that. They have found what they like to do in ministry based on the original ministries we looked at.

They have entered into the Gifts of the Spirit. They have begun to grow in the Lord and experience the Fruit of the Spirit, and they are quite happy to minister at that level. They never expect to go any further.

Five Leadership Ministries

But there are also those whom God is pushing to a higher calling; to rise up and become leaders in the Body of Christ. Jesus especially is responsible for this, and we have not even reached the Father yet in these things.

We started with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. But the Bible says concerning Jesus, that when He ascended on high He gave gifts to men. He poured something down and gave a gift to the Church.

We are told that He gave five main gifts to the Church. These gifts were five kinds of ministry leadership functions. These have become known as the Fivefold Ministry.

What exactly is the Fivefold Ministry?

If we return to our illustration of the dove we see something new. It is fine to have the dove flapping its wings, but which direction does the dove fly in? What gives the dove direction and helps it to steer?

It is the same thing that steers an airplane or even a ship; it is a form of rudder. This is built into every bird and it lies in the tail of the bird. The tail feathers of the dove are the part that does the steering.

The Tail of the Dove

Here we have another very good picture. Just as we saw nine feathers in each of the wings, we now see five feathers in the tail of the dove. We call these five feathers the Fivefold Ministry.

You can read about these in Ephesians where we are told,

He gave some to be apostles, and some prophets and some evangelists and some pastors and teachers.

They are the five leadership ministries that Jesus gave to the Church.

So you begin to rise up in ministry starting from the lower levels, and you receive an empowerment from the Holy Spirit in the Gifts and the Fruit. Now you are ready to get moving in ministry.

There are now five possible directions that you are likely to move in as you rise up higher in the Church as a leader in the area of ministry. You will move into the realm of these five ministries.

Until now we have still only seen Jesus and the Holy Spirit being involved. Where does the Father come in? He is the ultimate leader and director who controls everything from the top.

So in addition to Jesus and the Holy Spirit, there is something that the Father would be directly involved in. Remember that the members of the Godhead never work independently. They always work together as one.

The Father does not work apart from the Son or the Holy Spirit. So when we move to where the Father Himself becomes involved, we get to the very highest levels of leadership ministry in the Body of Christ.

These are ministry positions of ultimate leadership through which God will direct the Church. The full control of where the dove goes and what it does is of course in its head. That is where the brain lies.

CHAPTER 10

The Ministry Offices

Chapter 10 - The Ministry Offices

Our head is the part that controls the rest of our body. So the head of the dove is a picture of the highest level or ultimate leadership where ministry is concerned. And we can consider the two eyes of the dove as being the two highest leadership levels in the realm of ministry.

Now we have a change of terms, and the word ministry is changed to office. What is the difference between a ministry and an office? Here is the definition.

An office is something that God has chosen as a permanent appointment to a position. You can progress through various different levels of ministry until you come to a place where you know you have reached your calling.

But when God places someone in a ministry office, it means that the Father Himself has set a specific leadership authority in place in the Church. He then works through that authority to create the ultimate leadership in the Body of Christ.

Bear in mind that the Fivefold Ministry was given by Jesus. These are not ministry offices, but leadership positions in ministry.

We could argue that they have been appointed, and they certainly will be appointed as they rise up. However they will not be appointed in quite the same way as the ultimate ministry offices.

There are only two of these ministry offices, and they are represented by the two eyes of the dove. These two give the Church, the ministry and the entire Body of Christ, the direction that God wants it to go in.

Two Special Fivefold Members

Only two members of the Fivefold Ministry are ultimately seen in Scripture to be treated as a higher level office. The first one is the Prophetic Office, and the second is the Apostolic Office.

So we have the Fivefold Ministry, but we have the Prophetic Office and we have the Apostolic Office. What is the difference between the Prophetic Ministry and the Prophetic Office?

Some people have tried to teach that you get different kinds of prophets. They use different terms to show these distinctions.

But the Prophetic Office is a uniquely appointed position where God places someone in a permanent situation. That person stands in the office of one who speaks for God into the Body of Christ Universal.

The role of the prophet is to set the Church in order. The prophet puts everyone in their place and makes sure that everything is functioning correctly.

The prophet also prepares the way ahead by using prophetic decree. He speaks God's Word into the earth and creates things that did not exist before.

If you use the allegory of the building of a new road, the prophet would be the one who takes the bulldozers, cuts down all the growth in the way, and takes out all the stones to lay the groundwork.

They are the ones who go ahead to prepare the way for the Body of Christ. That is a higher level office and requires a special training as we will see when we consider training.

The Apostolic Office is the highest office of all. It is the leadership office in the Body of Christ. You will see the two offices mentioned frequently in the New Testament. It talks about the Prophets and Apostles.

We read that in these last days God is speaking through His Prophets and Apostles. The Church is said to be built upon the foundation of the Prophets and the Apostles, because they are the leadership offices.

Higher Level Leadership

We will see later on that the Apostolic Office also branches into many different divisions and is the ultimate leadership in the church.

We will not be considering that in this series on Ministry Made Easy though. That is a higher level training that is outside of the realm of what we are aiming for here.

We will however be looking at each of the Fivefold Ministry, which includes the Prophet and the Apostle but not at an office level. We will look at them at a ministry level.

Once you have completed this introductory teaching on Ministry Made Easy, you can move on to consider Evangelistic Ministry Made Easy, Pastoral Ministry Made Easy, Prophetic Ministry Made Easy, Teaching Ministry Made Easy and even Apostolic Ministry Made Easy.

You will be able to find the place that God is leading you to and identify your calling.

Functions of Apostles in Office

The apostles in office will lay out the pattern for the churches and appoint leadership in the Body of Christ. They will also train the Fivefold Ministry.

So when you move up into office level you are not only doing the work. You are leading the way by laying out the pattern and training others to come up to that level. Not everyone will get up to office level, because they are unique positions that God has predetermined.

Here then are all the possibilities that are available to you in ministry. You can start from simple basic ministry, operating in the Gifts of the Spirit, and learning to use the internal anointing of the Fruit of the Spirit.

Then you can move up into the Fivefold Ministry. These are the ultimate leadership positions, except for the very highest level

which God has reserved for Himself. There is where the Father Himself gets involved.

A Relationship with the Father

Nobody can move into those offices without coming into a personal relationship with God the Father Himself. You can move up as high as the Fivefold Leadership Ministries, working mainly with Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Many people have been in the Fivefold Ministry all their lives. But they have never yet come into the Throne Room and had a personal face-to-face confrontation with the Father Himself. That is something that God has uniquely reserved for those that He has called to that higher office.

So where has God called you to be? At what level has He called you to function in your ministry? You probably won't know until you get there. But how do you start? You start by being trained for the work of the ministry.

It does not come naturally or full blown. You cannot say that the day you were born again and accepted Jesus as your Savior, the Holy Spirit came in and you got all the gifts and the fruit. You did not get all the knowledge and power you need to go off and do the work of the ministry.

A lot of people seem to think that it is that way. They think that all they need to do is pray for hours a day and read the Bible. They think that they can then go off and God will raise them up to become one of the leaders in the Body of Christ.

No, you may be able to develop your own spiritual life that way. But when it comes to working with other people, you will have to learn a lot more than your own personal experience. If you don't do this you cannot be effective in doing the work of the Lord.

Teachers and Trainers

That is why one of the ministries God has raised up to teach people is the Teaching Ministry. That is why at the highest office level, God raises up trainers who can train the lower level ministries. They are absolutely necessary.

After Jesus had called His disciples, He spent three years teaching and training them. Only after that time did He breathe into them and say,

"Receive the Holy Spirit."

Then it was only on the Day of Pentecost that they received the External Anointing and the Gifts of the Spirit before going out. But they had a three year ministry training before they went off.

Today we love to have everything instant. We would love to just go and be trained and come out with a PhD degree. We think that because we have the highest level of education, we can now go and take our place as the big leader.

The Fallacies of Education

That is the way we love to do it, and in the professional realm people still do that. They go to university and get their professional degrees. Then they come back highly qualified, only to find out that while they were studying, other people were doing the work.

That qualified person now steps into his or her superior position in the workplace, to lead others who really know how to do the job.

Sometimes such a person has to go through a practical training and learn from the lower level employees how the work is actually done.

Once all of that practical knowledge is added to head knowledge, only then can this person be qualified to stand in the authority of a leader.

Which is the easiest way to do this? Is it to go to university and get a degree, then return and humble yourself to learn the job starting from the lower levels and working up?

Who do you suppose becomes a more effective leader? Is it the one who followed this route, or the person who started out at the lowest level, perhaps just sweeping the floors?

This person works their way up through the ranks and learns how to do the job before adding knowledge to practical experience. They build up to a position of leadership, and from there they can look down and identify with each employee in the company at all levels.

Is this not the best way to be trained? But we have made the same mistake in the Church because we have followed the patterns of this world.

Even while we are still at school, we think that we must rise up and get qualified. We must go to College and study, until we get a piece of paper that says we are now qualified to rise up into a higher position of authority.

We have a world full of highly educated people who don't know what to do with their knowledge.

The Opposite Extreme

We also get those on the other side of the road. They think that they simply need to get saved, filled with the Spirit and get out there and do the work.

They say that the Lord will lead them and teach them. As they go out, He will show them how to do the work of the ministry. If anyone gets hurt along the way it cannot be avoided. It is part of the learning process.

The church is a mess because of people like that who have not taken the time to get properly grounded in what they need. So there are both of these extremes.

I would like to suggest that the best way of training is to cover all areas that are needed according to God's pattern. I would like to introduce what I believe should be the pattern of training for the End Times Church.

CHAPTER 11

Theoretical vs. Experimental Knowledge

Chapter 11 - Theoretical vs. Experimental Knowledge

What is the pattern of training? You need to first gain two different kinds of knowledge.

The first one is theoretical knowledge and the second one is experimental knowledge. Many people are confused on the second word, because it is similar to the word experiential. These two are not exactly the same.

The first is based on the word *experiment* and the second is based on the word *experience*. The knowledge that we gain in life may be based on the things that we learn and put into our heads, and also the things that we experience in life.

Experiential knowledge is the ultimate knowledge and it embraces both theoretical knowledge and experimental knowledge. Experimental knowledge however simply means the opposite of theory; it means practical knowledge.

So you should learn the theory and then put that into practice. When you combine those two together you get experience. Then you have the ultimate goal which is experiential knowledge which is our ultimate goal.

This may be a minor issue, but it is good to understand what these terms mean.

You need to learn both the theory and the practice. And as you combine those two together and live them, then you gain the ultimate knowledge which is based on your experience in life.

The Importance of Grounding

So where do you need to start with these two types of knowledge?

Firstly you need a foundation or groundwork for your ministry. If you get back to the picture of the dove, it is clear that things are

fine while the dove is flying. It has the power of its wings, the tail feathers are working and the dove is soaring high.

But a bird cannot stay in the air forever. It has to eventually come back down to the ground.

That is when the two insignificant body parts called the feet come into play. These are very limited and a bird can only run along the ground with its little feet.

There is not much power in those little feet, but they give the bird stability. Without those feet it cannot survive on the ground. It cannot land on a tree or on the ground, and this prevents the bird from doing much at all.

What do these two feet represent? What is the most important thing that you need as a grounding to carry you when the anointing is not present? Surely it is the Scriptures or the Word of God.

We know that the Bible consists of two parts - the Old Testament and the New Testament. This is our grounding and foundation and the part that takes us through when the anointing is not in operation.

You should know from experience that the anointing is not in operation 24 hours a day. It comes on you when it is time to 'take to the air' and do the work that God has called you to do. But what about the rest of the time when you are not flying?

You need to be grounded in the Word. How do you do this? It is not as much fun as taking to the air and flapping your wings as you fly. We humans understand this because we do not have wings.

The Place of Bible Doctrine

That is why the first and most important part of your training, which starts under the heading of theory, is getting grounded in the Scriptures. So the first part of your training should be in Bible Doctrine.

What is Bible Doctrine? Isn't it that theological religious stuff? No, doctrine simply means 'teaching', so Bible Doctrine is the teachings of the Bible or what the Bible teaches.

Why do you need Bible Doctrine? Because when you read the Scriptures you are reading a whole lot of things that you have never seen before and that you don't understand. I described this earlier when I shared about walking in a forest with plants everywhere.

What Bible Doctrine does is it gives you a kind of skeleton on which to hang all the meat. Or you could think of it as being a pile of boxes or compartments that you can put things in.

If you could set up a spot with lots of compartments or boxes, then the easiest way to study the Scriptures would be like this. As you read and come across an interesting passage, you say,

"I recognize this. It fits into that box over there."

So you put it into that box and you read on. As you continue to read the Bible, you can take everything that you read and put it into all the right boxes.

Then when you put all the boxes together, they become like a jigsaw puzzle. You have many little pieces that made no sense at the beginning, but now they start fitting together. And now the Bible starts to make sense.

You could spend your whole life reading the Bible and trying to discover those boxes. Or you could let someone else, who already knows the boxes, show you what they are.

Such a person could give you a grounding in the main teachings of the Scriptures. Then as you read the Bible, everything starts to come to life.

There is a process known as the teaching process which works like this. If you wish to learn something, then this is how you teach or learn.

You start with something that you know, then move to something that you did not know. In other words you must move from the known to the unknown.

It is much easier to take something that you already know and add some extra information to it. Then, because you already know a bit about it, it makes sense. The pieces drop into place.

If you read the Bible alone, you are reading a lot of unknowns. All you have is a box of jigsaw puzzle pieces. You may think you have an awesome puzzle; a huge puzzle with thousands of pieces. You can even boast about your puzzle.

You have a head full of Bible knowledge, like a puzzle. But then someone asks you to show them the picture.

What will you say? You have not had time to put the pieces together yet, but you have an awesome box of puzzle pieces, bigger than anyone else.

You may know the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. But can you put it together into a picture to show people that they can understand?

Do you even understand yourself where all the pieces fit? You probably don't. You must start with a known, and Bible Doctrine becomes your known.

Adding Knowledge of History

Now you start adding other things to that. You could learn about history.

I hated history when I was at school. You learned about what other people did in the past; the lives they lived and the cultures they had.

I found it very boring. But as I grew up I realized that the world in which we live today came about because of what happened back there.

Sometimes you are not fully able to understand where you are now, until you learn about some of the things that happened back there. When you read the Bible now, how much do you understand? What do you picture and see in your mind?

It helps to have an idea of what happened back there in Bible history. It is good to know what kind of traditions they had, what clothes they wore, what kind of food they ate and what kind of lives they lived.

You need some kind of external knowledge, so that when you read the Scriptures you understand a bit more clearly what the writer is talking about. You can then see it through the eyes of that person and the kind of life they lived back there.

You cannot get this knowledge from the Bible. You will have to get it from the world. You may have to get it from history books and other secular writings that tell you about people and cultures from the past.

That is a lot of extra knowledge, but if you want to be effective in ministry then you need to know these things.

This applies especially if the Lord leads you to travel the world and go to other nations. You need to learn about those nations and their background, so that you know how to present the Word to them in a way that they will understand.

Learning about Human Nature

You also need to learn a bit about human nature. And if you think I mean learning psychology you are wrong. Please do not go and study psychology.

Psychology and psychiatry were created by godless men who tried to explain God away and get rid of sin. Their purpose was that people could live the way they wanted to live, instead of the way God wants us to live.

You simply need knowledge about people. You can learn some of this through your own experience. Or you could learn from the

experience of others who have lived a bit longer and have been involved with many different kinds of people.

You can be taught and trained about how human nature works; how people think and operate. Then when you come to ministering to people, you will understand a bit better what kind of person you are dealing with. Now you are in a better position to start ministering to them.

All of these things are only theory. They are knowledge that must get into our heads.

It is very important knowledge, and without it you cannot be very effective in ministry. But you must also move beyond that and into experimental knowledge.

We will cover this next in the final section of this study. We will look at experimental knowledge and how to come finally to the place where you know your calling. Then you can spend the rest of your life doing what God has called you to.

SECTION 05 – MINISTRY TRAINING

CHAPTER 12

'How to' Training

Section 05 – Ministry Training

Chapter 12 – 'How to' Training

We come now to the final principles involved in training for ministry. We said at first that you need to learn theory. This includes Bible Doctrine, the nature of man, traditions and history, as well as human nature.

Basically what you need to learn is best expressed in the words, 'How To'. Theory however usually tends to teach you 'What To'. So there needs to be a move to 'How To', even though both are still part of theoretical training.

You are learning principles, so as you come to be trained for ministry your first foundation should be a grounding in Bible Doctrine.

That is what we offer in our Training School, and we hope that this introductory series on ministry training will help you to realize that a foundation in the Word is very important.

Presenting the Word

As you become grounded in the doctrines of the Word, you will also need extra training on how to actually do the work of the ministry. So what is the first important thing you should learn? You need to learn how to present the Word.

It is not enough to only know a lot about the Word. You should know how to present that knowledge to other people.

This never comes automatically. The world is full of people who have great knowledge, but they cannot take that knowledge and impart it to others.

They may be able to do this in a classroom, where students are forced to listen to a boring teacher; someone who just spouts what he or she has learned.

You need to know how to present the Word. But before you can do that, you need to learn the Word. That is why you must start with Bible Doctrine.

You cannot move into the phase of presenting the Word practically, until you are trained on **how** to do this. This includes some knowledge of human nature, because you should learn how different people react.

People have different temperaments and natures. You should understand this before you try to present the Word, because they will all respond in different ways.

Part of the training then is on how to speak, teach and preach. The practical side will deal with this in detail, but you must start with the theory first.

Influencing Others

You also need to know how to influence others. You might be able to talk to people and tell them what you know. You might think you can teach the Word and you have all the Scriptures memorized. You could quote them one after the other.

You might be able to take anyone who will listen and speak to them for hours. But when they walk away, what effect did you have on them? Did they say?

"Wow, she has such Bible knowledge. I am impressed. I wish I knew that much about the Word."

Perhaps you influenced them to like you, but is this really what you wanted to do? Certainly not! You want to influence people for the Lord, because that is what ministry is.

How can you learn to do that? You can learn from people who have practiced it. You can also learn some of the theory of how to go about it.

You must not only impart knowledge, but do it in such a way that they are affected by it and their lives are changed. In the end it will take more than your words and actions to bring

change to someone. It will take both the External and Internal Anointing of God to do this.

It Takes the Internal Anointing

When you go through more studies on that subject, you will find that the Internal Anointing is used more to influence people than the External Anointing. It opens their hearts to receive from you and from the Lord.

What is the main effect that you want to create in others? You want to reproduce yourself in them. You want to take everything that God has done in you and duplicate it in them.

All of these are things you should be learning in your ministry training. So if your training takes you no further than just learning the doctrines of the Bible, you will fail in ministry.

You must learn how to present the Word in a way that is interesting and people want to receive it. You must learn to present it in a way that it will change their lives. You must learn how to take everything that God has done in you and pour it into somebody else.

Until you can reproduce in them what God did in you, you will not be effective in ministry. You should learn all of this in your theoretical ministry training.

These subjects should all be covered in the studies that you do in a ministry training course. They will be covered in the training series that we are offering to prepare you for the work of the ministry. But that is still not enough.

Once you have learned all of these things, how do you go about putting them into practice? Will you be like a professional, fresh out of university and with all the degrees?

Such a person steps into the workplace, and probably has an office with his name on the door. But he does not know how to do the job yet. He can sit there with his name up and all the qualifications listed behind his name.

People may respect and look up to him or her. But what effect is this person having on the lives of others? This does not come automatically.

Learning to Evangelize

I remember the first time I learned all about evangelism and how to lead souls to the Lord.

I got really excited about it and studied all the theory and the Scriptures. I learned how to handle arguments and everything I would need. I had a head full of knowledge.

Fortunately the pastor of the church I was in at that time had a real emphasis on Evangelistic Ministry. He insisted that everyone should have a turn to go out onto the streets on a Saturday morning to evangelize the lost.

That meant going out into public, speaking to complete strangers and trying to lead them to the Lord. Have you ever tried to do that?

I had seen people doing this, and watched videos of people doing it. I had learned it in theory from books. But now I was being forced to put that theory into practice.

You Need a Kick From Behind

It is a bit like learning to swim. You may have figured out what to do in the water, but sometimes you need someone to kick you from behind to make you fall into the water.

You probably start off floundering and almost drowning. But you suddenly remember all the principles you learned, and you give them a try.

You may have hated the person who pushed you in. But afterwards you were glad that they did it, because now you learned some practical ways of doing things.

Ministry is very much like this. Having the theory is not enough. You may have the theory and the titles and letters behind your name.

You may have advertised yourself as an expert. But do not think that people will be knocking down your doors and asking you to minister to them. They will not do it.

Perhaps you have the idea that you should just get qualified enough and increase your knowledge, until you are an expert at ministry. You want to come to the place where people will recognize your position and knowledge.

Do you think that people will then flock to you so that you can do the work of the ministry? It will not happen.

You need somebody to teach you how to do this ministry. You need experimental knowledge. We will get to that shortly.

Working Person to Person

The first thing you must learn is how to work person to person. I remember when I first felt the call to the ministry. I had visions based on what I had seen on TV and in videos.

The evangelist would stand up, roll up his sleeves and declare that he was going to pray for the sick. He would call for a healing line to form so that he could pray for each one.

The great man of God would then lay his hands on the people. He would pray the prayer of faith, and miracles would begin to take place.

I could see myself doing that. I could see myself standing in front of crowds of people. They were coming forward to receive the healing power of God, which I was going to minister to them.

It was an exciting idea, and I had big visions of rising up in the public eye and becoming a great man of God.

Many people think something similar when they go to university. They think that their degrees and qualifications will automatically put them into a position of being an influence to others.

In actual fact it always starts by you influencing only one person. Probably the first 'bubble' that was burst in you when you tried to do the work of the ministry, was that you could not find anyone to minister to.

Perhaps you only had your family members. How boring is that! But you must learn to minister to every single person one at a time. You must practice all the things that you learned by working person to person.

You do not start full blown with a public ministry, moving in signs and wonders, and having your name splashed everywhere. It starts behind the scenes, where nobody even notices it.

You begin with lower level ministries. You could begin with evangelism by simply sharing the Lord with people. It could start with simple counseling, where people come and share their problems with you, and you just pray with them.

You may not know what to advise them because you know nothing yet. But as you learn more you can do this better. We will give you 'Counseling Made Easy' to learn how to counsel. But you must start by ministering to one person at a time.

Group Ministry

When you are ready for it, you will then come to a group ministry. Sometimes you will already begin to see that when you step out in faith to minister to one person.

I remember once when we went out to share the Gospel. There were many people there, and as I began to share the Word with one person, someone else came and joined us.

Before I knew it more people came. I ended up with a whole group of people standing there as I shared the Gospel.

It was a wonderful experience. There I was standing in public and preaching. I had never done that before. I had an idea in my mind of how it would be, but I had to start with one person. Then it led to a larger group.

I remember the first time I stood up to preach to a group of people in church. I had lived this in my mind for years and dreamed of the day that this would happen. Then finally it came to pass.

We had a combined youth meeting with another church, and because I was one of the leaders, they asked me to preach. The Pastor was also there, along with some senior church members.

I had never done that before. I had learned all the theory. In my mind I could see myself preaching, but I had never actually done it. But I stepped into the water and learned to swim.

Amazingly I did exceptionally well and I was blessed. Many people make a mess the first time they stand up. They stammer and stutter, mumble and bumble and open up the Bible in the wrong place.

We all have to go through these experiences before learning to qualify to minister effectively. You cannot avoid that part of your ministry training. So you need to have someone working with you to give you practical exposure.

Preaching to a group of people publicly is one of the most difficult things to do. It is a known fact that standing up and speaking to a crowd of people is something that many people fear more than death. It is not an easy thing.

Learning to Write

Where else can you start? You can start by learning to write. What you write can be read by many people. It is a practical way of taking your knowledge and using it experimentally.

Writing is a very important part of ministry, and in today's world knowledge is a big thing. The Internet is dispensing knowledge

all the time. You have so much available to you if you can learn to develop and use your writing ability.

We will provide a full writing course for you. We will show you how to develop that skill and use it to present your ministry.

Becoming a Leader

You need to also learn how to become a leader of others.

What kind of leader are you? No matter where you come from, there is always someone below you. In a home you might have brothers or sisters that are below you. That makes you their leader.

If you are a parent, then you have children under you and you are a leader. So no matter where you are in life, you will always learn to lead. There will always be someone below you.

You need to practice becoming a leader, especially if you want to rise up into the higher leadership ministries.

CHAPTER 13

Mentorship and Spiritual Parenting

Chapter 13 – Mentorship and Spiritual Parenting

You can still do all of these things very much alone, but usually you will need someone to give you that 'kick into the pool'. This is where the most important person in your ministry training comes into play.

That person will be your mentor. The word mentor is used loosely these days, but what exactly is a mentor? Often someone will refer to a book they have read, and they will call the author their mentor.

Did they ever meet that person? No, he may have died before you were born. So he really was not your mentor then was he? He may have been your educator and taught you and given you knowledge.

A mentor is someone who is involved with you personally. Such a person takes you and puts pressure on you and forces you to do things. Your first mentor was the one who 'kicked you into the pool'; the person that you probably hated. They pushed you into doing something you did not want to do.

Time Limited

Training under a mentor is concentrated training. It takes place for only a short period of time and it is very intense. So the first thing you need to know about mentorship is that it is time-limited.

Mentorship is never long term and it is never permanent. The work of a mentor in your life only has a short time span, and then it is over.

Goal Limited

The work of a mentor is also goal-limited. In other words, the mentor will only take you up to a certain point until you reach a specific goal. Once you reach that goal then their work is over.

A mentor can only teach you what they are good at. This means that it is not enough to have only one mentor in your life. You will need many mentors, and each one will take you to what they are experts in.

For a limited time, they will train you until you are able to do the same skill that they are good at. Then their time with you is over and done.

How many mentors have you had in your training for ministry? This will depend on how far up the ladder you plan to go. Each new level that you move up to in your ministry could require a different mentor.

So if you thought your first mentor was bad, just wait until you reach the higher levels. You will find that the pressure increases and the deaths come more frequently.

You have to learn to change and qualify to put into practice what is needed for your ministry. So you can have many different mentors, each taking you to different levels.

Spiritual Parenting

Then we come to the next highest level of training which is spiritual parenting. You need a spiritual parent, but would you like to become a child again? Usually childhood is something we hated.

Perhaps you could not wait to leave home and get away from your parents. Every teenager's dream is that they could not wait to grow up. You are no longer a child. You are an adult now, and now you can do your own thing.

Then you go into ministry training, and unfortunately it starts all over again. Spiritual parenting always begins with a new spiritual relationship.

This could start when you are born again. The person who led you to the Lord was a spiritual parent, because they birthed you into the Kingdom of God.

It can also take place at higher levels. It could begin with your ministry training, or it might begin when you reach training for higher level ministry.

The difference between spiritual parenting and mentorship however, is that spiritual parenting tends to be a longer term thing. Spiritual parenting then becomes an ultimate goal.

Here is how it works. You start out as a child; you have a parent that you look up to. And as a child you might say,

"When I grow up I want to be just like my mother or father."

The growing up part takes a long time, but eventually you reach that goal of becoming like your parent. The parent has then reproduced themselves in you. This is what a spiritual parent has to do.

Problems with Spiritual Parenting

There are however a few problems that can take place here. Firstly, spiritual parenting, like mentorship, must reach a place where children break free and go through a process we call 'individuation'. The child then becomes an adult in their own right.

When do you break free of your parent? When you have finally received all that the parent has, and have taken the image of that person. You have then finally 'become' that person.

Mentorship only takes one particular quality in the mentor, which is being passed to the one being trained. But in spiritual parenting, you want to become all that you saw in your spiritual parent. So it embraces a lot more.

But here is a problem. What if your parent has not remained static in one place? As a child I could look up to my Dad and think,

"I would like to be just like my Dad one day. I would like to do what he does, and become like he is."

I then set my goal in life to become like my Dad. But I find out that my Dad is also still thinking like a child and is still reaching forward to his parent. He is still progressing and aiming to go higher and higher, so he keeps changing.

How can I keep up with him? It is not enough to say you will be like your parent, but you need to set a point in time. You must want to be like your parent is at one particular point.

In most cases this is not a problem. This is because usually when we reach a place of maturity in our life, we stop progressing and we say,

"I have found my place."

In fact, I will show you that when you reach that place is when you have found your calling. So now when you as a spiritual child reach out to become like your spiritual parent, we assume that your spiritual parent has finally found their calling.

They are now settled and continue to fulfill that calling. Then they can bring a spiritual child up to that same level.

A Parent in Process

What happens though if the spiritual parent is still progressing?

I know this from experience, because I tried to bring my spiritual children up to my level. Many did extremely well. But there was a problem, because I did not remain in one place.

I continued to grow up to higher levels, and did not let them go when they reached the level they were meant to. This is what they were supposed to do. As a result many fell by the wayside and did not continue.

Those who continued to hang on were holding on tight and being dragged on the ground, because they were not meant to hang on. They were meant to let go at the level God had called them to be.

Find Your Life Calling

I would like to end this subject by considering how you go about finding your life's calling. What exactly is your Life Calling? It is the most important thing of all.

What has God called you to be and to do in this world and in this life? As I said earlier, the revelation of this is progressive. Your life calling depends on how big your vision is.

It also depends on God's purpose for your life, because He has predetermined the level that you will go to. Do not think that you can keep going higher and higher when you feel like it.

God has from the beginning set a ceiling on how high you will go in your ministry calling. When you reach that calling you will know it. But when you first start out, you will not know it.

The only thing you know at the start is that you want to do ministry. You simply 'bite' on different things and test to see how they taste. Some of them taste good; others do not.

Often it takes years before you finally chew on something and think,

"I like this! I am going to eat it from now on."

CHAPTER 14

How to Know Your Calling

Chapter 14 - How to Know Your Calling

So how do you know when you have found your life's calling? Here is a simple little rule that you can apply. You have come to a place where you can say to yourself,

"I am happy with what I am doing, and I can see myself doing this indefinitely on into the future; for the rest of my life if necessary, unless the Lord changes it."

Unless the Lord gives you something extra, you are happy with where you are right now and you can continue to do that.

Many people never find that place. They are always striving to find an elusive goal and discover what their calling and ministry is.

So they sit and wait, as I did, for a prophet to come and prophesy over them and tell them what they are called to do. They want the Prophet to say to them,

"Thus says the Lord, I have called you to be a Pastor."

They go and do their full pastoral training and become qualified as a pastor. Then they must come and learn to do the work of the ministry.

No, that is the wrong way. That is why most of the time God will not tell you what your final calling is. He will lead you a step at a time and He will say,

"Let's try you out on something. Here is a broom and there is a bucket. Go and wash the floor."

Oh dear, you thought that you were called to be the Managing Director. Perhaps you are, but you are not ready to step into his office yet.

So start where you are. Take the opportunities that are available and begin with the lower ministries. Earnestly desire spiritual gifts and follow after love. Put into practice everything you have learned, and continue to learn as much as you can.

Get into the Word and take study courses, then get out there and put into practice what you have learned. Do this until your ministry becomes wide and varied. You will find that after a while it starts to change.

My Personal Experience

I remember that when I first started out I didn't know what God had called me to be. I was looking at my own life experience, and I always had a compassion for people who had gone through the same problems I had in life.

I came to a brilliant conclusion and said,

"God had called me to help people with problems."

What a great revelation. Since my life had been filled with problems, obviously God had called me to help people with problems.

The very first full-time ministry I ever had, I told the Lord,

"Give me a church that has people with problems in it."

What a silly thing to ask for. I got the worst church in the country and it nearly killed me. I was not ready for it.

Previously, I had discovered all about demons and how to do deliverance. I **knew** then that God had called me to a deliverance ministry.

But every time I tried to cast demons out of people they got upset. The Pastor became upset because the church was becoming too demon conscious, and I caused a big problem.

All I was trying to do was fulfill my 'calling'.

Then I began to study the Word and it came to life. I found myself wanting to just teach the Word.

Now I was confused and I argued with the Lord. It did not make sense, because if I was called to a deliverance ministry, then why was I now doing teaching.

That was many years ago, and I found out eventually that I was called to something far higher than just being a teacher.

It took me many years to find the place where I am right now. In fact it is only recently that I came to the place where I am settling down and finally know what my calling is.

So do not feel bad if you don't know what your calling is. Get involved in whatever ministry God gives you. Let the passion that burns in you just flow out into practical ministry, helping and ministering to others.

Do It This Way

Prepare yourself; learn as much as you can. Submit yourself to those who mentor you and train you. Find yourself a spiritual parent and say,

"I would like to become like that person."

Start with that as your first goal. You might find that when you reach that goal you have found your calling. Or the Lord may take you higher and bring in a different spiritual parent. That can also happen.

Whatever the case, ministry is really simple. There is nothing difficult about it. It is simply learning to flow out to others with all that God has given you.

Continue doing this until you find that 'spiritual career', where you have finally found your place in life. Then you can say comfortably,

"I've got it. I know what my ministry calling is now, and I'm going to do this the best that I can, for as long as I live, or until Jesus comes."

You will then be in a position to be very effective for the Kingdom of God.

While you are in that position, we are offering you all of the resources that you need, and many trainings that you will need. We will be there to mentor you, and in time, to offer spiritual parenting when God brings people together.

You will come finally that place of **Identifying Your Ministry Calling**.

PART 2 - USING YOUR MINISTRY GIFTS

SECTION 06 - YOUR NATURAL GIFTS

CHAPTER 15

Abilities of the Body

Part 2 - Using Your Ministry Gifts

Section 06 - Your Natural Gifts

Chapter 15 - Abilities of the Body

In Part 1 of this series we dealt with the subject of Fulfilling Your Ministry Calling. That was a general look at ministry, and how over time you can begin to identify exactly what God has called you to.

Now we come to this second part which ties in with that series and it is called Ministry Gifts Made Easy.

When it comes to ministry, one of the most important and popular subjects is for people to somehow identify and discover exactly what kind of gifts and abilities they have.

It is one thing to say, "I would like to be in (a certain kind of) ministry," but are you equipped to be in such a ministry? Do you have the necessary gifts for that ministry?

When most people start out in ministry, they start at the lower levels as we explained in Fulfilling Your Ministry Calling.

They start out at the lower levels of ministry and then work upwards. They start out in a more natural realm and then move up into a more supernatural realm over time.

I want to take you back to the starting point and help you to identify and discover exactly what ministry gifts you have and what you need. When we have done that we will look at how to go about obtaining them.

This series on Ministry Gifts Made Easy will consist of three sections of teaching as follows.

A. Using Your Ministry Gifts – this current series

B. Developing Your Ministry Gifts

C. Demonstrating Your Ministry Gifts

This series, including the series on Fulfilling Your Ministry Calling, will give you a complete teaching to prepare you for ministry.

By the time you have gone through all three of these, you will be well on your way to doing exactly what God has called you to do, and also those ministries you have desired to do.

How then do you find your ministry gifts? You need to take two main branches into account to understand this subject.

If you were to ask someone to tell you what gifts they have, what is the first thing they look at? They look inside of themselves to see what capabilities they have. What has been given to them that other people do not have?

What do they have that is unique and that they are good at that could be considered gifts? What can be used to do the work of the ministry? You will see that the ministry gifts will fall under two main groups.

A. Natural Gifts

These are gifts that were developed naturally, or that you may have had from birth. They are gifts that are resident in you because of the kind of person that you are.

B. Supernatural Gifts

These are a totally different category. They are not resident in us, but we have to receive them supernaturally from another source.

We will consider both of these in detail in this series.

Natural Gifts

Where in yourself do you look to find the gifts that you have received naturally? When you look at the natural person, you must consider the fact that according to Scripture we are made up of three parts.

1. We have a body
2. We have a soul
3. We have a spirit

We can have gifts in all three of these parts of our being. We have resident abilities that we were either born with or that developed through life.

So the best place to start in considering your gifts or abilities that you can *perhaps* use to do the work of the ministry, is to look at your body, soul and spirit.

The Body

What kind of natural abilities do you have in your body that will equip you for ministry? There are several different things you need to take into account.

One of the first is what is known as 'body types'. What kind of body do you have? You may wonder if that is important for ministry, but it depends on what kind of ministry you plan to do.

Some people have bodies that are more physically fit and better equipped to do any kind of work that involves physical or manual work.

So for example if God has called you to be a missionary, to travel to foreign lands and to handle the physical stresses involved, you may need a specific physical makeup.

If you are a weak or sickly person it would not be advisable for you to even consider such a ministry. So your physical condition can be a very important part of deciding your ministry.

Body Types

People tend to have a greater emphasis on what we call brawn or brain.

In worldly terms these are often referred to as butch or nerd. And they have categorized different body types in the

bodybuilding world, such as ectomorphs, mesomorphs and endomorphs.

These describe people who are skinny, muscular or flabby but they are not always based purely on the physical. Sometimes they include qualities from the soul that are mixed in.

What then is the best body type for ministry?

That is not nearly as important as finding out what is the best ministry for your body type. They are not the same thing. So you may need to take your physical characteristics into account for ministry.

Brain

Some people have a better brain capacity. We all need a brain to keep alive and to function, but usually a brainy person is someone who has greater intellectual capabilities. They have a brain that is very capable of absorbing and using knowledge in a more intelligent way.

When you were in school, there were students who were in more academic, higher study levels. There were also those who lacked the brain power to reach those levels.

Does God need that? Not necessarily. I will share more about this shortly.

Again it depends whether you want to use this ability for the Lord. Charles Spurgeon, a famous preacher known as The Prince of Preachers, is credited to have said the following.

"If I can be a ram's horn for the Lord, then that is wonderful. But if I can be a silver trumpet, that is even better."

God can use any kind of person. But if we can develop characteristics that are made available to the Lord to use, then we can accomplish far more for Him.

If you look at history at those who have accomplished great things for the Lord, you will see that it was not based on their

physical characteristics. However those with different physical characteristics accomplished different things for the Kingdom of God.

You may have to honestly take a good look at yourself in the mirror and ask yourself,

"Am I physically equipped to do the wonderful ministry that I so desire to do?"

Or do you perhaps need to give up that idea because your body is not suited to it?

It could kill you. In some cases the ministry has literally killed people, when they went into a ministry that put them into physical stress that their bodies were not able to handle.

People like this minister for the Lord for a short burst of time. Then they die and they are gone. Does this mean that God did not lead them into that ministry?

I am not sure, but be honest with yourself and take a good look at your body.

Vocal Capabilities

What kind of voice do you have? Do you have a tiny, squeaky little voice, that has little volume and hardly anyone can hear you?

Would you like to listen to someone speaking like that for hours? I certainly would not, especially if it is a man speaking like that.

Obviously there are limits, but what if God has called you and you desire to move into a ministry that requires you to speak to people verbally? What if you need to stand up before large groups of people to speak the Word of God?

If this is the case then you should have the kind of vocal power that will allow you to speak loudly, clearly and distinctly. You will need to speak in a way that will communicate to the people what you are trying to minister to them.

If you are gifted with a bad voice it could stand in the way of your ministry ability.

Stamina and Strength

The general stamina and strength in your body are important.

What if you are called to be like Paul, who traveled on all the missionary journeys and went from place to place? It will require a certain amount of physical energy and stamina to do this.

You would need this to be able to go through beatings, shipwrecks, fasting, and all the things that Paul tells us he went through. He was a very unique kind of person who could do many things because of his physical capabilities.

There are others who do not have those physical capabilities, but that does not mean they cannot do the work of the ministry.

It simply means that they cannot do the kind of ministry work that people who do have those abilities are able to do.

What You Can Do

Is there something you can do about your physical condition? There certainly is. Can you develop any of the characteristics mentioned? Yes you can.

You can change the look of your body through diet and exercise and following the Way of Health, which is another teaching series. You can make your body healthy and strong and capable. In fact you **should** be walking in Divine Health.

You can also develop your mental capabilities through study and with the Lord's help. You could even do vocal training and learn to train your voice so that it communicates well.

All of these things can be changed and dealt with. But do not make the mistake of saying,

"I have this natural gift, which was given to me and which equips me for the ministry."

If you do not have some of these natural gifts then do not despair. They can be developed, and in the next series on Developing Your Gifts we will look at this in more detail. So far however, we have only looked at the body.

Unfortunately there are some body characteristics that you are born with and they cannot be changed, such as the kind of body you have. You will have to just accept that fact.

Realize though that the Lord has a specific function or ministry or calling for you, and He knew what kind of body you would have when He decided on that calling.

So you do not need to feel that you would like to do a ministry, but because of your body you cannot do it.

God knew about it and already took it into account. He will give you a ministry that is totally suited to what your body is able to handle.

But the body is the least important after all isn't it? Nevertheless I have mentioned it because some people have better physical characteristics. Some have good looks which cause others to admire them and say,

"Wow, I would listen to anything he tells me."

You can do something about that too and you can improve the way you look. But some folks really seem to have been 'gifted' with physical characteristics that others do not have.

This will decide how effective you are and how people respond to you in ministry.

CHAPTER 16

Abilities of the Soul

Chapter 16 - Abilities of the Soul

The next and more important characteristics are the Psychological Characteristics. The Greek word for soul is *psuche*, and this is where we get the English word psyche or psychological from. In the soul lie the mind, emotions and will.

What gifts or abilities do you have lying within your soul that can possibly be used for the work of the ministry? Probably the most important quality of all is something called attitude.

Teachable Attitude

Attitude is a specific mix of mind, emotions and will or a mindset. It is a way of thinking, feeling and choosing. The attitude that you have in your soul will decide what God can do with you and of what use you can be in His work.

What kind of attitudes can a person have then? A good starting attitude is to be teachable.

This does not necessarily mean you must be intelligent enough to learn. We all have the ability to learn. Our brains are like sponges, ready and waiting to soak up knowledge and any information they can get.

However the amount of knowledge and information that you receive is determined by your attitude of being open to receive teaching. If you are looking for a ministry gift, then answer this question,

"How teachable are you?"

If you are not teachable then God can do very little with you. God must be able to teach you His ways. And you must be able to receive training for ministry, either directly from the Lord, or from those He puts into your life.

If not, then how can He possibly use you to be someone who can teach and influence others with the Word of God?

So if you lack this quality or gift of being teachable, then you should get it quickly or you will disqualify yourself from a lot of ministry possibilities.

Willingness to Give

You should also have a willingness to give or an other-orientation. This means that instead of looking inwards, you should have a tendency to give out to other people what is within you.

Many people want to absorb knowledge and build up information, developing these gifts and abilities so that they can be seen by others. Everyone will then say how wonderful they are, and there will be much coming in to meet **their** needs.

If this is your attitude in ministry then the Lord can do very little with you. As we saw in Fulfilling Your Ministry Calling, ministry is servanthood. It is service.

If you do not have the attitude of a servant then you are lacking one of the most essential gifts that is needed to do the work of the Lord.

Willingness to Change

It has taken you many years to become the way you are right now. You have received much programming throughout your life; studying, knowledge, training and mentorship. All that you have been through in your life is included in this.

But God could be calling you to something that requires you to move in a different direction to the way you have been programmed in your life. This means that you will have to change.

Do you have the gift of being teachable? Do you have the gift of other-orientation or giving out? Do you have the gift of being ready to change?

If you do not have some of these basic tendencies in your attitude, then you have limited the number of ministry

possibilities that are open and available to you and that God can use you in.

Temperament

Temperament is based on the soul and is part of the whole realm of psychology. What exactly is temperament? Some of it you received even before you were born. Some of it was programmed into you by your parents.

Temperament can be changed by the experiences that you have in life. And over time, that temperament will determine what you look like, and the permanent condition of what kind of person you are.

We have taught on temperament in many different places. One specific teaching that deals with it is a series I did on the nature of man and human temperaments.

I have included these in a module called Psychology in Business and Ministry because it includes principles of both business and ministry.

The principles are explained well in that series, so I will only give a quick summary of the temperaments here. Then I will show you how they result in different personality types. Those personality types in turn equip us for certain kinds of ministry.

Remember that we are still looking here only at natural gifts. This is not the supernatural yet.

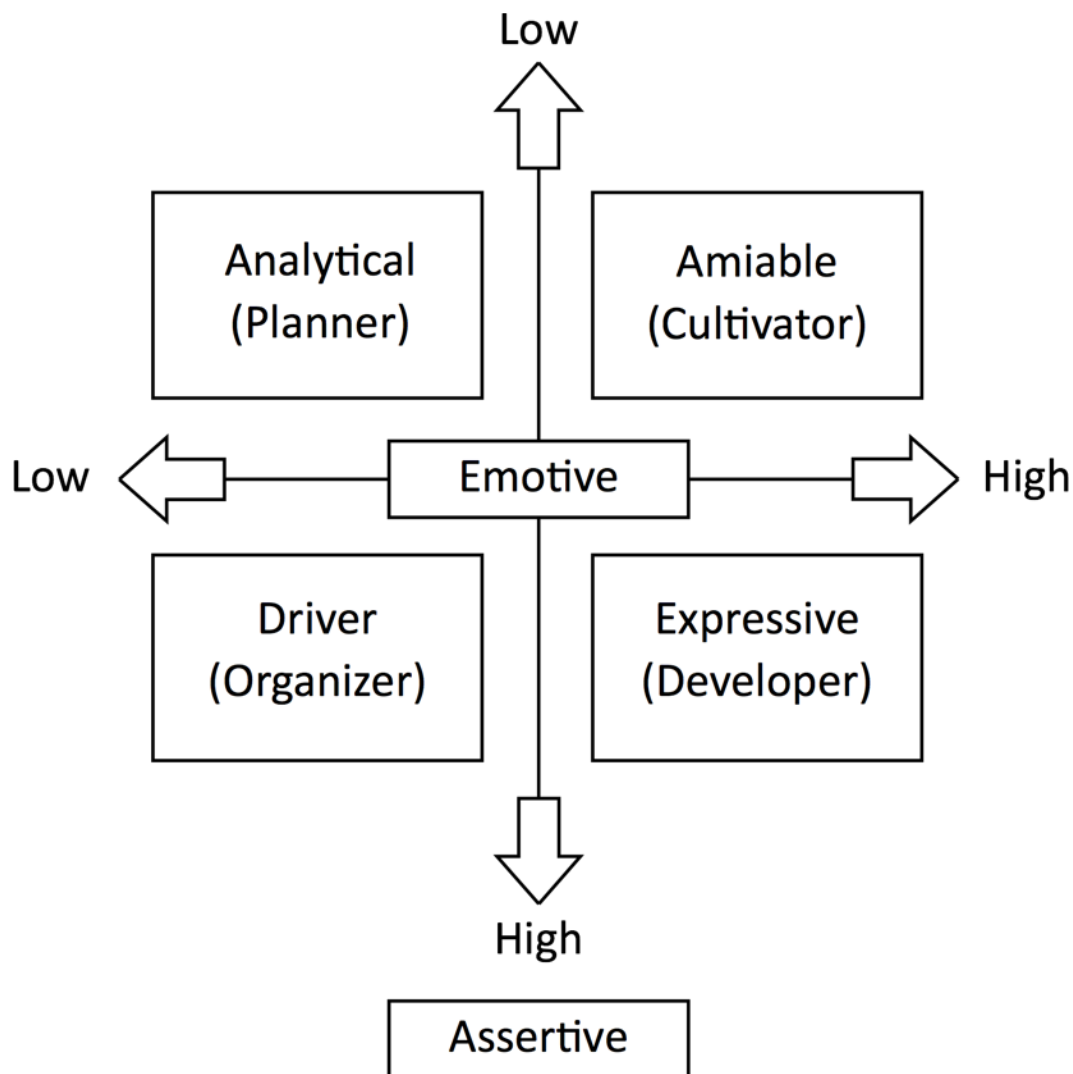
Two Main Parameters

Temperaments are based on two main parameters. These allow you to very quickly assess a person. The first parameter is Emotional Expression, which is the tendency of a person to express their feelings and show them outwardly.

The second one is Assertion, which is the tendency of a person to be strong willed and impose their will in their relationships with other people. There can be different levels of both emotional expression and assertiveness.

The simplest way of showing this is to use either high or low levels in both. If you illustrate these two as a horizontal and a vertical line, crossing over each other like a cross, then there are four possibly combinations available. You can see this in the following illustration.

Example: Temperamental Chart



As I taught in the series on temperaments, these four temperaments are known as follows.

1. The Analytical – low on both emotion and assertion.
2. The Amiable – high on emotion but low on assertion.

3. The Expressive – high on both emotion and assertion.
4. The Driver – low on emotion and high on assertion.

Each of these temperaments has different characteristics.

The analytical person is more introverted; very much a perfectionist and an intellectual type of person.

The amiable is more people oriented. He is friendly, and loves being with people and helping them.

The expressive is more goal-oriented, and thrives on excitement and challenges.

The driver is the typical 'boss' type who is very strong and work-oriented.

That is just a quick summary of the temperaments. If you want to know more, then you should get the Psychology in Business and Ministry series for that.

Throughout our lives, each of these temperaments can be developed and we can swing out of them. Even when a baby is born you can already see signs of temperament in that child. But that temperament can vary, depending on the influence of the parents.

As the child grows up, this can vary even more as a result of influences from other people. Eventually over time, as you grow up, you come to a place of being more comfortable in one area.

This usually involves a mix of temperaments. You have one main temperament dominating, but the side temperaments also having an influence.

As you move into one of these four, you will begin to develop a personality type. Personality is something that is a bit stronger than temperament because it is something that has become a characteristic of who you are.

Once again we are getting into natural gifts and abilities. Your personality type will give you a natural ability or gifting in a certain direction.

When it comes to ministry, you will find that you function more easily in a particular type of ministry, based on your personality type.

The Analytical Personality

When the analytical temperament is a major factor in a person's life, it leads to a specific type of personality. This temperament is often called the planner, because it holds strengths that are very good for planning of the future.

The analytical has foresight based on past experience. This allows the person to look forward to the future. He or she assesses possibilities based on past experience and can almost predict what will happen.

If something is done one way, then based on what was attempted before, there are several possibilities that can exist. So the analytical can look into the future and plan what kind of actions to take.

Because the analytical or planner is very good at this, he or she is likely to become an Instructor. This personality type is good at instructing or teaching others by imparting principles and knowledge to them.

So what kind of ministry is the analytical very capable of being involved in? He can do any ministry that involves the impartation of principles and knowledge. I am sure that you are immediately thinking of a teacher.

The analytical is more naturally gifted to becoming a teacher.

The Amiable Personality

The amiable person is also known as a cultivator, because he or she is able to cultivate relationships. Because the amiable is very

people-oriented, he or she is able to develop relationships and friendships with people.

Because of this, the amiable personality type is known as the connector. So the analytical develops an instructor personality, but the amiable is more naturally a connector personality.

What kind of ministry is the amiable more naturally equipped to do? He is able to carry out a ministry that involves working with people and putting them together, particularly in group situations and relationships.

And so the amiable is very good in a pastoral or counseling environment, working with people and bringing them together to develop relationships.

We have not yet looked at the supernatural or the anointing of God or His calling. We are still only looking at natural temperaments.

You may be thinking that you already know what your ministry and calling are. But wait; there is a lot more to come.

The Expressive Personality

The expressive is also known as the developer, because he or she develops new things. Because the expressive is so very good at bringing out new things, he or she can take people from where they are and cause them to move into something new.

So the personality type of the expressive is the motivator. If you have ever felt that you would like to be a motivational speaker, the chances are that you are expressive in temperament and have developed the personality of a motivator.

What is the best ministry then for this type of personality?

Surely the best motivator is the prophet. The prophet always gives direction and adds new things, telling people what to do and getting them motivated to move into their ministry.

By now you might be thinking that you already have all the gifts you need. You may have decided that God has called you to be a teacher, a pastor or a prophet.

But there is one more temperament.

The Driver Temperament

The driver is also known as the organizer, because this temperament has a natural ability to take charge of a group of people and get them functioning together as one. So the personality type of the driver is the director.

What does a director do? He sits right at the top, and he organizes everyone and takes charge of them.

What type of ministry is the driver, organizer or director most capable of? He can do any ministry that involves strong leadership, structuring people, putting them in their place and setting up an entire organization.

Do you hear the word apostle? Is this not amazing? You can now easily see where your ministry is.

If you are a planner/instructor, then you are surely called to be a teacher.

If you are a cultivator/connector, there is no doubt about it; you are called to be a pastor.

If you are a developer/motivator, then you definitely have the prophetic calling.

And if you are the director, then obviously God has called you to be an apostle.

No, not necessarily.

Certainly He could have, and He can use these natural abilities. But it will take more than the abilities of the soul. We have not even considered the abilities of the spirit yet. We have only looked at the body and the soul so far.

You do not even need to be a Christian to have what we have looked at so far. Unbelievers have these exact same things. So how can God use that for the work of the ministry?

If that be the case, then the Lord could use anyone out there who does not even know Jesus as Savior, and call them to the work of the ministry.

I am sorry to burst your bubble, but hang in there and do not let these go yet. God is not finished with them yet and He will still use them.

I will show you as we continue, how God can take these very abilities and gifts that He has given you and use them for the work of the ministry.

But first we must consider the gifts and abilities that lie within the human spirit. This is what we will look at next.

SECTION 07 - SPIRITUAL ABILITIES

CHAPTER 17

Natural Spiritual Gifts

Section 07 - Spiritual Abilities

Chapter 17 - Natural Spiritual Gifts

We continue looking at our natural gifts. We have considered physical abilities and psychological abilities, or abilities of the soul. Now we come to the third part which is our spiritual abilities.

As we have taught before, God has made us to be a spirit, a soul and a body. In our Bible Doctrine Made Easy course, under the Doctrine of Man, we covered this in a bit of detail.

It was also covered in some detail in our Psychology in Business and Ministry course, under the Nature of Man and Human Temperaments.

As a result of the sin of Adam, the spirit of man became incapable of responding to God. But that doesn't mean that the spirit of man ceased to exist. Although man is considered 'spiritually dead' outside of Christ, this does not mean that his spirit is dead.

When your spirit leaves, your body dies. The spirit is in fact what keeps the body alive.

This means that every human being, whether he or she is a Christian or not, still has an active spirit. So we will look at the natural abilities that come from the spirit.

Also For Unbelievers

So far everything that we have discussed concerning natural gifts applies to every human being.

You do not need to be a believer to have these abilities. They are gifts you had either from the time you were born. Or you may have developed during your life, before you even became a Christian.

You need to know this and understand it, especially when we consider the supernatural. This is because although these gifts can and will be used, in the right place in the work of the ministry, they are not the most important gifts of all.

Unfortunately most people major on these gifts. Have you ever taken a test where you are asked questions to help identify your ministry? I will guarantee that most of those questions and answers pointed to characteristics of the body and soul.

Even if they did point to the realm of the spirit, they would refer to natural gifts of the human spirit. We will consider these now.

Creative Gifts

The most important kind of gift that you have in your spirit is a gift that lies in the realm of creativity. That includes especially all of the arts; artistic abilities, singing, writing, drawing or producing poetry. These are all spiritual abilities.

I have heard people say,

"I have this gift from the Lord that enables me to write beautiful poetry."

Did you have it before you were a believer? If so, then it is most definitely a natural gift, not a supernatural gift.

Sure it came from the Lord because He ultimately created it, but you did not receive it directly from Him. You received it because you are a human being.

The creative talents and skills are all spiritual abilities. We tend to assess people as naturally gifted in certain abilities, so we say things like,

"She was born with a tremendous artistic ability."

"He was born with an ability to sing."

"He always had this ability to write; he was born with it; it was a natural gift."

We tend to envy people and are jealous of them. We say,

"That's not fair. They got all the good gifts and abilities and I have nothing. I am totally untalented and incapable."

That is not true; you have a human spirit like everybody else. So then why do you not have some of these gifts? There are only two possible situations.

1. Some people are born with different kinds of spirits to others.
2. Some people know how to use the gifts and abilities that are in their spirit.

The gifts that lie in your spirit are of no use whatsoever until they begin to manifest outwards. What lies in your spirit is below the level of consciousness, and when you look at someone you cannot see their spirit.

So if you see a particular talent or ability in a person, it means that whatever was in their spirit has somehow become poured outwards. It is now being displayed physically in a way that everyone can see it. The question is then,

"Do I not have these gifts? Or could it be that I have not yet released the gifts that are within me?"

If this is true then, and the human spirit can produce every kind of creativity, it means that every one of us has the capability of producing these natural creative gifts.

Releasing Spiritual Abilities

The problem is that we have never, firstly, learned how to allow what is in our spirits to flow outwards through our souls and then into our bodies.

How are these things released? I have taught this many times in different places. Spiritual abilities are always released through words and actions.

Go back then to what we covered earlier concerning the gifts and abilities that are in your body and in your soul. Realize that what is in your spirit comes outwards to manifest itself via the abilities that are in your soul and body.

Words

You could be a talkative temperament. There are two talkative temperaments, and they are those that are high on emotion; both the amiable and expressive. The expressive especially is the talkative temperament.

So if you are amiable or expressive in temperament - a connector or motivator - then to express verbal abilities comes very easily to you.

You could say of such a person that they have a natural ability to speak; also known as 'the gift of the gab'. No it is not that they have a natural ability to speak, because speech is a spiritual function.

Animals do not have the faculty of speech. They can make noises and sounds, but they cannot form words. Only human beings can form words, because they have a spirit.

This means that the ability to speak is a spiritual function. Every one of us has the ability to speak, unless we have a physical problem that rendered us incapable of speech.

You have the gift of speech within you. However if you are of a temperament that more easily expresses what is within using words, then the chances are that you will more easily display gifts that are vocal.

This kind of person is more 'naturally skilled' at standing before a group of people to speak. They are great orators or motivators.

Actions

Who is more capable of carrying out actions? Surely it is the temperaments that have the highest level of assertion. Assertion is the imposing of the will and this is expressed in action.

Going back to the temperaments then, you will see that the driver and expressive temperaments are more likely to release what is in their spirit through action.

The expressive can do this with both actions and words, which is why the most talented and creative people in this world tend to be largely expressive in temperament. So if you are an expressive in temperament you are most blessed.

The chances are that you will be able to express a lot more of what is in your spirit through words and actions. The analytical on the other hand is different. The Analytical is not assertive, but he is capable of speaking words and can talk for hours.

That is why these people make good teachers, but they cannot do something that requires action.

The best actors are those who show both emotion and assertion. Everybody is capable of using both words and actions, but we are looking at natural abilities.

So often what we consider a natural spiritual ability is strongly linked to temperament and whether the body can handle it or not.

For example, if you want to express your artistic ability in dancing, then you will need a body that is fit enough to go through the motions of dancing.

If you want to be an opera singer, then you had better have the vocal power to sing without an amplifier.

So these things require a certain amount of physical and psychological capability, along with what is in the spirit for you to express some of your natural spiritual abilities. However, they are spiritual abilities, because they come from within the human spirit.

So we cannot say that one temperament is more naturally gifted in one of those. But we can say that a temperament may find it easier to release what is in their spirit that way.

Manifesting Your Spirit

The important thing is that the spirit must manifest. If you see a gift or ability in anyone, then what you are seeing is the manifestation of their human spirit. This is manifested in some kind of ability that we like to call gifts. But the word gift can be confusing.

You get the idea that there was a time when a whole lot of gifts were lying around, and someone decided to give different gifts to different people.

You believe that this is how life works. And perhaps when you arrived at the table, all the good gifts had already been given away.

Have you ever felt that way? When you arrived to get your gifts there were not many left, so you only got a few puny ones.

This is not true. Any limitation that you have in displaying spiritual abilities is not because you have less in your spirit. It is because you are incapable of releasing or manifesting outwardly, what is in your spirit.

So if you are able to, you will need to make some changes in the outer part of your soul and body. We will cover this in more detail in the next series, where we look at Developing Your Gifts.

The important thing to realize is that the spiritual abilities we have discussed here come before the New Birth.

Unbelievers have a spirit, but the Holy Spirit is not involved in this picture at all. It is a human spirit having natural abilities that are built into every human being.

All of these natural abilities were already there, before you ever accepted the Lord as your Savior or were born again.

Spiritual Abilities Are Not Ministry Gifts

Here then is the danger when it comes to ministry. You may hear people say,

"I have a gift from the Lord which I believe is my ministry."

But when you question them more closely you find that they have had this gift for many years. Some have had it as far back as they can remember.

If you had that gift before you were born again, then it is not supernatural, and it does not come directly from God via the Holy Spirit. It is purely a natural gift and it can only be used in certain circumstances which we will deal with shortly.

You need to understand the difference. Those gifts and abilities can be developed over time.

It is a known fact that many of the great artists of the past could not, using an old saying, 'draw a straight line with a ruler' when they started out. Their drawing ability was often terrible, but they developed it.

There are some who have great vocal ability today, but when they first began to sing, they sounded like a frog. You may like the sound of frogs, but it is unlikely anyone makes or plays recordings of frogs croaking.

These abilities can be developed. Of course in singing there are also vocal cords involved, so the body is part of it too. There is more involved than only the spirit. But the expressing of a creative ability begins deep within.

All of these things may be developed, but how do we allow them to be used by God? This is what I would like to look at next.

CHAPTER 18

Enter the Holy Spirit

Chapter 18 - Enter the Holy Spirit

How do we take all of these natural abilities and use them for the work of the Lord? The very first thing that must take place, is that the Holy Spirit must take up residence in your human spirit.

This will only take place when you are born again by the Spirit of God. The day that you accepted Jesus as your Savior you were spiritually reborn. Something took place in your human spirit and God gave you a new spirit.

What happened is that His Holy Spirit came in and combined with your spirit, and, as it were, changed its color.

So your original human spirit was still there, with all the abilities that were in it. But God's Holy Spirit now came and combined with your spirit. He took up residence, and joined and mixed together with your spirit.

Now as a born again believer you have a spirit that is indwelt by God. You have the Holy Spirit permanently living inside of your spirit, and that changes everything.

It means that as you now release from your spirit, you have those natural spiritual abilities coming out under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

But there is a problem, because there are also other spirits apart from the Holy Spirit. We will deal with that shortly when we come to the supernatural.

What is important is that whatever you have in you, whether it is in your body, your soul or your spirit, should come under control of the Holy Spirit inside you.

Walking in the Spirit

In our teachings in Bible Doctrine, we looked at the subject of walking in the flesh and walking in the Spirit.

We saw that walking in the flesh involved living a life that was controlled by our bodies. The soul submits to the body instead of to the spirit.

Walking in the Spirit on the other hand is when our soul submits to the spirit within and brings the body under control. So for these natural gifts to be of use to the Lord, you have to start by walking in the Spirit.

In one of my other teachings, I likened walking in the Spirit to walking in step as soldiers do in the military. Walking in the Spirit means that you must walk in obedience to every instruction that you receive from the Holy Spirit.

So before God can use these natural gifts of yours, you have to be subject to the Holy Spirit. This means that all the natural gifts that are in your body must become subject to the Holy Spirit that is now living within you.

Those natural physical abilities are of no use to the Lord unless they are subject to the Holy Spirit. The psychological gifts, temperaments and personality strengths must now be subject to the control of the Holy Spirit before God can do something with them.

Realize that when the spirit flows outwards it can only flow out via your soul and your body. So God **has** to use what is in you, which is good news.

Not only can God use all of those natural abilities you got excited about, but He **has** to use them.

The Fruit of the Spirit

Whatever comes out of your spirit has to come out via your soul and your body. When this happens you produce what is known as the Fruit of the Spirit.

This is caused when the anointing of God that is within, called the internal anointing, begins to flow out through you.

God can then take all of your spiritual abilities, your soulical abilities and your physical abilities and combine them together. He can use them together in some form of ministry, for His glory and for His Kingdom.

But here is the problem. All of your life, your body, your soul and your spirit, have not been in submission to God.

They have been in submission to the world around you; the World System. They have also been in submission to the enemy of our spiritual lives, Satan.

If there has been any spiritual influence in your life before, it probably came from another form of the supernatural. We will look at that in the next section when we discuss the supernatural.

Removing Contaminations

You must come to a place where you give everything to the Lord and remove all the bad influences.

Some of it was caused by bad programming. Who taught you to use your body the way you use it? Who taught you how to use your soul the way you use it? Who taught you to use the creative abilities of your spirit in the way you use them?

I can guarantee that whoever taught you was not serving the Lord.

You were influenced throughout your life, beginning with your parents and others who programmed you, along with the system of this world. All of these have contaminated your body, your soul and your spirit.

So what can you do? You have to give these things to the Lord and let go of them. That means if you have a natural ability you do not have the right to say,

"Lord I have a natural ability to impart knowledge and instruct people. Therefore I want you to use me in this. I know that you will obviously use me as a Teacher."

The Scripture says that God has not chosen the wise or beautiful people of this world, but He has chosen the weak and foolish things to confound the wise.

So when God calls you to the work of the ministry, He will not look first at your wonderful natural abilities. He will not say,

"Well this person is quite clearly gifted in this particular area, so it is obvious what call they should have. Come, let's give them that call to ministry."

He will often do the complete opposite and call you to the one thing that you are incapable of doing. So we must add a word that you may not like; a word that we try avoid all our lives, because it means the end of life.

Death

You cannot escape death, because when you accepted Jesus as your Savior you fully identified yourself with Him in every way. That means you must be identified with Him in His death, His burial and His resurrection.

So you can breathe a sigh of relief, because you do not need to stay in death. The idea of death is not like this:

"You have natural abilities, so God will never use those natural abilities. You have to let them go and give them up forever, and God will use you in something you are totally incapable of doing."

No, all of your natural abilities must be subjected to the death of the cross. This means that you are prepared to take them and nail them to the cross. You must say,

"Lord, I gladly give these up for you, even as you gave up your life for me. So I give up my life, and I give up all my natural abilities for you. I put them on the cross of Calvary."

Burial

After the death there will be a burial. Will He then resurrect them after that?

Maybe He will; maybe He won't. They have to stay in the grave until you come to the place where you are happy for them to continue in the grave.

You make up your mind that you are prepared to never use those abilities again. You are prepared to give up all of your natural gifts and abilities for the sake of the Kingdom of God, His call and the work of the ministry.

Then He will choose which of them He will resurrect. And when He resurrects and brings that gift back to life, it will be changed.

When Jesus rose from the dead He was different. He had a different kind of body to what He had when he died and went into the grave.

Resurrection

Resurrection always involves a change, and that change is always an improvement.

So you have given God your natural abilities and allowed Him to put them in the grave. And when He resurrects them, He resurrects them with the added emphasis of His power and abilities.

He will bring those abilities up to a higher level than you have known before. But if you are not prepared to do this, then you can never use any of these abilities in the work of the ministry.

We have now looked at your natural abilities and we have identified some of them. But do not run off thinking that you know what your calling is. You simply know what you have to die to and let go of.

After that the Lord will show you in His time, which of those abilities He will use; how and when He chooses to use them. He

will bring them back to life again and use you, and bring those abilities to a new level.

Other Greater Abilities

He will use you mightily for His Kingdom. But He won't only use those abilities, because He has extra abilities for you that are far greater than all those natural abilities.

These abilities are the supernatural abilities. They are the more exciting gifts that you should want to aim for.

You may have found your natural abilities; but when it comes to spiritual abilities, it is not simply a matter of finding them, but obtaining them, using them and developing them.

We will follow this direction as we continue in this teaching series, and in the next section we will begin to look at the supernatural gifts.

SECTION 08 - SUPERNATURAL GIFTS

CHAPTER 19

Two Spiritual Realms

Section 08 - Supernatural Gifts

Chapter 19 – Two Spiritual Realms

We looked previously at natural gifts and we saw that the gifts and abilities that we were born with lie in the realm of the body, the soul and the spirit.

We saw that even though you might think of the spirit as being more supernatural, most of the natural gifts actually come from within the spirit.

We come now then to the supernatural, which is usually always in the spiritual realm. There are only two supernatural realms that exist in this world. They are:

1. The realm of God
2. The realm of Satan and his demons – what the Bible calls the Kingdom of Darkness

When we consider the supernatural then we are considering influences that come from either God's realm or Satan's realm. If God's realm is involved, then there is only one Spirit, and that is the Holy Spirit.

There are also angels who are spiritual in nature. They are certainly involved in helping us in ministry, but they do not enter into us, possess us, influence us or control us the way that demons do.

Demons come and try to take up residence in a person to control them and influence them.

If there is any gift or ability within you that falls outside of the realm of natural talents, then it is supernatural.

That means it comes from either the Holy Spirit of God, or the Kingdom of Darkness. In the second case, that means it is coming from a demon spirit.

You must be able to tell the difference between these two. Many people go wrong here, especially when it comes to identifying ministry gifts.

You may have heard people saying that they were born with a gift. Some people have even taught that the gift is resident in you from birth, and when you are born again, you submit that gift to the Lord to use.

If you have ever been given this teaching or believed it, then it is time to throw it away. It is a doctrine of demons and heresy.

Don't ever think that you could have had anything from birth or at any time in your life that came from God if you were not yet born again.

You could, however, have had an influence or supernatural ability that has been with you all your life. It could even have been with you from birth.

Family Generations

There are influences that come from family generations. God said in the Old Testament that He would visit the iniquity of the parents on the children and children's children, to the third and fourth generation.

This was spoken when God told Israel to have no other gods before Him, during the issuing of the Ten Commandments. What does it mean to 'have other gods'? It means to worship someone that is not the true God.

If you are worshipping someone who is not Almighty God, then you are worshipping a demon.

So anybody in your family generations that got involved with demonic spirits, opened their heart wide to Satan and his hordes. The Bible considers doing such a thing as sin.

The influence that such a person opened themselves up to will then get passed down into their children, and their children's children, to the third and fourth generations.

If you examine your own generations, then four generations reach from you backwards to your great grandparents. If you have tried to trace your family tree you will see that there are quite a few people involved.

If anyone in this list got involved with demonic powers and opened their hearts to influences from Satan, then that influence will be passed down and will try to affect you.

So you could have been born with an influence or a 'gift' that you think is from God because it is supernatural. Perhaps you have an ability to foretell the future; you have dreams of things that do come to pass.

You may get gut feelings and thoughts in your mind; perhaps also pictures and visions, and you grow up thinking that this is of God.

If you had this before you were born again, then it is not from God. It comes from Satan, and it probably originates from a family generation. I will show you shortly how to handle these things and get rid of them.

But if you have identified any supernatural 'gift' within you that was with you during your life as far back as you can remember, then the chances are you have a family generational bondage.

You need to renounce this and get rid of it. You need to drop any idea that this is a gift from God that you should be using for ministry.

You often see this sort of thing in those who move into a Prophetic Ministry, who feel that they have always had this orientation to tell the future and know things about other people.

It is demonic and you need to give it up right now and let it go, if you think that is your gift.

Associations

There is another way that you can pick up supernatural influences, and that is through associations with other people.

Each time you open your heart to someone, you join your spirit and soul with theirs.

Becoming friends involves a soul bond taking place, which is a bond of friendship. But when you open your heart too wide and there is a more intimate communication, there is also a bond in the spirit.

If you are with someone who is contaminated in their spirit, such as an unbeliever who has a demonic influence in their life, then that demonic influence will try to also contaminate you.

You could have picked up a spiritual influence by your association with somebody else who was into that kind of thing. So be very careful who you associate with.

You can also pick up good things through association and we will look at that in due course.

You can receive the right kind of influence from someone. But if you received something from someone who is not born again and spirit-filled, be very careful before you think that this is a gift from God.

The Occult

One of the most powerful influences of all is the occult. This covers a wide range of things, and not everyone involved in the occult has gone into heavy spiritism, magic or other demonic things.

The simple process of reading a horoscope can open you up to the occult; also having your palm read or going to a fortune teller.

These are very dangerous things. Anything that touches the realm of the supernatural, even if you did it for fun, will open you to a demonic influence.

You may suddenly find uninvited thoughts coming to your mind, or knowing things that you did not know before. You could get revelations that are supernatural, but they did not come from

God. They came as a result of your involvement somewhere along the line, with the occult.

All of these spirits work in the supernatural realm and they will try to counterfeit or copy the gifts of the Holy Spirit. But there is only **one** Holy Spirit.

There are many different demons, and each has a characteristic and personality of their own. But there is only one Holy Spirit.

There is only one supernatural influence that we must be prepared to consider, and that is the influence of the Holy Spirit of God. Anything outside of that, you must reject. You must refuse to allow it in your life and your ministry.

Lose the idea that this was a gift that God gave you. This must be made clear before we even get started with the Holy Spirit.

CHAPTER 20

The Holy Spirit

Chapter 20 - The Holy Spirit

We need to see now how the Holy Spirit influences our lives. As I have done many times and will often do, we need to consider man's makeup of spirit, soul and body. We need to understand how God made us to see how He works in us.

When you are born again, the Holy Spirit comes to take up residence deep inside you in your spirit. We have looked at this before.

Once the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you, He makes influences available to you, which come from deep within.

The Bible calls these influences the Fruit of the Spirit, but there is also an anointing involved. I am not going to give a detailed teaching here on the anointing, because that is covered under our teaching on the Doctrine of the Anointing.

The Internal Anointing

From the moment you are born again, the Holy Spirit comes to live permanently inside your spirit. You then have something that is available to you that I like to call the Internal Anointing.

Most non-Pentecostal or non-Charismatic people seem to think that when you are born again, you receive the Holy Spirit and therefore need nothing more than that. They say that all you need is in the Holy Spirit, and in a sense that is true.

Every supernatural gift and ability that you need is resident in the Holy Spirit. And as we saw earlier, that Spirit flows outwards, through your soul and body to manifest.

God then causes the influences from His Spirit to flow out. And He will take your gifts and abilities and highly amplify them, by adding some of His own influences to them.

The External Anointing

There is another anointing of the Holy Spirit and I like to call that the External Anointing. This is an anointing that comes from the outside. You can think of it like this.

The Internal Anointing is like a container, such as a bucket or bottle that is filled up with water from the inside. That container can then be partly full or very full, but it varies at different times.

This is how our spiritual life is. We have a certain amount of influence or 'fullness' of the Holy Spirit, depending on whether we walk in the Flesh or walk in the Spirit. We have a degree of being full of the Holy Spirit.

The External Anointing is different to taking the bottle and filling it from a tap. It is more like a downpour of rain, or taking that bottle and dropping it into a pool, where it is totally surrounded with water.

The term used in the Old Testament for the External Anointing was the Spirit 'coming upon'. So the Holy Spirit was said to have come upon the prophets and caused them to prophesy.

The Holy Spirit came upon Gideon or Samson, and it added something to them. Samson got great strength from it. All of these spoke about the External Anointing coming upon a person.

You have the Internal Anointing from the moment you are born again, but the External Anointing is not automatic. You have to enter into it, and to do that you must go through an experience that we call the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

If you have been in Charismatic or Pentecostal circles you will know this term. If you are not familiar with it then it is time that you do.

This is because you will need it if you want to work in ministry and move into the supernatural gifts; the power that God has available for you.

The Doorway to the Gifts

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the doorway you have to walk through before you gain access to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. You only need to open and walk through that doorway once. But that door is not opened automatically when you are born again.

It has to be opened at a point in time, during a specific experience that you have. At that point the door is unsealed, and after that you may go in and out of that door whenever you please.

How does it happen? You come to an experience with God, where you allow Him to immerse you in His Spirit.

Baptism always means immersion, contrary to the teachings of traditional churches that baptism is done by sprinkling.

Water baptism is total immersion under water. But the Baptism of the Spirit means total immersion in the power of God and the influence of His Spirit.

It is like taking a bottle and holding it under water so that it is totally surrounded. When this occurs, there is a breakthrough that takes place between the outside and the inside and a bypass takes place.

Normally the spirit flows out from within, via the soul and body. Influences from deep within come into your thoughts (in your soul) and then to your brain (in your body). From there they come into the physical world.

The Bypass

The baptism of the Holy Spirit carries out a kind of bypass, because it bypasses the mind. The External Anointing comes in and bypasses the mind completely, by going directly through the will.

Then what is in your spirit begins to cause some effects directly on your body. When this takes place, you feel something in your body.

The External Anointing not only affects your soul with its thoughts and emotions, but it also affects you physically on the outside.

The most obvious symptom of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, which clearly shows the effects in the body, is when your language begins to change.

However as we have seen, the spirit is expressed in two different ways – through words and actions. So when the Holy Spirit begins to manifest under the influence of the External Anointing it is usually seen in speech and action.

On the Day of Pentecost as the disciples were waiting and the Holy Spirit was first given, flames of fire came down and something began to take place within them.

The first thing we are told is that they began to speak in different languages to what they normally spoke.

This is known as speaking in other tongues, but that is not all that happened. It was not only their words that changed, but their actions also changed.

We do not know exactly what they were doing, but strangers coming in from the outside said,

"It is only nine o'clock in the morning, and you people are drunk already?"

They must have been acting like drunken people.

How can we see when someone is drunk? The most obvious way is through their actions.

So when the Holy Spirit manifests through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, there is a very clear release of something that affects both the words and actions of the person involved.

Not Only Tongues

Some people do not have the full liberty of speaking in other tongues right away. But their actions will usually be seen, and something will take place physically.

Some people may find it hard to speak as they lose control of their tongues and stammer; others might shake under the power.

They may just stammer and shake, but it is a sign that something is happening. The Holy Spirit is manifesting and taking control of their body.

It does not come through the mind. It cannot be controlled with the mind, but it can be stopped by an act of the will.

If you have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit you will know what I am referring to. It is a very distinct experience, and from the moment you receive it, there is a breakthrough from spirit to soul and body.

The beautiful thing about the baptism is that it bypasses the mind. Here is where we have a problem when it comes to tapping the inner anointing of the Holy Spirit. We sometimes have thoughts coming into our minds.

Sources of Thoughts

How do thoughts enter your mind? They come from two different directions.

As you receive influences from the world around you and hear people speaking, you receive input via your five senses. All of these produce an influence which enters the mind.

However you can also put something into your mind by closing your eyes, shutting yourself off from the world and blocking the five senses. You can still have something coming into your mind from deep down inside of you.

So your mind can receive influences from deep down inside, or from the outside. What makes the Baptism of the Holy Spirit so powerful is that it allows you to tap into that power before your mind is ready.

You do not need to wait until your mind is ready and listening. Otherwise you need to shut your eyes and ears, get into a dark place, and meditate until you tap into what is coming up from deep inside.

The anointing of the Holy Spirit allows you to bridge that gap immediately, because you can cause your spirit to directly control your lips.

You can by choice open your mouth and begin to speak in other tongues. But you can only do it after you have been through that doorway.

You may speak in other tongues and your spirit takes control, flowing from deep within and out into your body. It is coming through the soul, but not the mind.

As you continue to speak in tongues for a while then eventually your mind is also influenced and you begin to receive things from within into your mind.

There is a reason why I am emphasizing all of this. You can also receive influences into your mind from the outside that involve more than the senses. Thoughts can be placed into your mind by a demonic power.

Demons do have access to your mind, but that does not mean they can read your thoughts. However the enemy can inject thoughts into your mind from the outside.

This means that if an idea comes to your thoughts, you will need to learn and know where that thought came from.

Did it come from the world around you? Did it come from a memory or something deep down inside? Did it come from your spirit? Or did it perhaps come from a demonic spirit influencing your mind and implanting it there?

We will look at this in more detail in the next series, where you will learn how to develop and demonstrate your gifts. You must learn to tell the difference between these.

You need to firstly understand why the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is so important. It allows you to tap into a new power from the outside that is so strong you do not need to wonder where a thought came from.

The anointing of God will come upon you and you will sense God's power coming on you physically.

When God begins to move upon you to put thoughts in your mind, there is a far greater confirmation. This is only part of the Gifts of the Spirit.

You know that the thought was not just your imagination, nor was it a demonic power. The thought came as you sensed and felt this influence of the Holy Spirit, so that thought probably came from God.

How to Receive

Let's look finally at how to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is one of the most confusing subjects being taught. Some people get it by accident; others struggle for years to get it and just cannot seem to have success.

My own experience was that nothing ever fell into my lap. I got it neither by accident nor in the normal ways. I had to fight for it and struggled for years to get it. It seemed like everyone else got it except me.

I would go to meetings and people would pray for me, but I wouldn't receive it. So the Lord taught me how to receive the Baptism correctly. I would like to share that with you quickly.

By Faith

You must firstly realize that the Baptism is received by faith, which is actually how we receive everything from God. Everything we receive from God **has** to be received by faith.

That means you have to be fully convinced that God wants you to have it. Is that not what faith means?

Faith means to be fully persuaded in your mind; to commit yourself and to receive something. All of these are involved in faith.

So to receive the Baptism, you must firstly be convinced that it is for you. To do this you need to get into the Word. The Scripture that did it for me was a very simple little one.

When I looked to the Lord to speak in tongues and was battling to get it, I found a Scripture that said,

For you may all speak with tongues.

I knew then that if **all** could speak with tongues, that included me and I had a promise to put my faith on. I believed that this was for me, and I could then reach out and take it.

You do not receive tongues, but you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is where many people go wrong.

You are not simply receiving an experience, but you are entering into a new relationship with God the Holy Spirit. You get to know Him in a way that you did not know Him before.

When you were born again you received a relationship with the Holy Spirit which enabled you to know Jesus as your Savior. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus to us.

When you are saved and have the Internal Anointing, the Holy Spirit is revealing Jesus to you. But when you have the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, you come into a new relationship directly with the Holy Spirit Himself that you did not have before.

So firstly you need to know that God wants you to have the gift of the Holy Spirit. Once you have that, all you need to do is ask Him for it. You simply reach out and say,

"I believe that this is for me. I reach out and take it; thank you Lord. I receive it now by faith."

It is essentially a very simple act for you to carry out. You may need a little help along the way. So even though you could receive it all alone like that, one of the things that does help is impartation.

By Impartation

This means you can have someone else pray with you. You can be in the presence of other believers in a meeting where they are all flowing in the External Anointing.

With all that water splashing everywhere, you are likely to get wet. An influence comes to you that opens you up to the anointing.

Try them all. Go to meetings where the anointing of God is manifesting. Ask other believers to pray with you and lay their hands on you. Then simply reach out by faith and say,

"Lord I receive this now by faith. This is the gift that you have for me and I reach out and claim it."

Then as you claim it, and you enter into this new relationship with the Holy Spirit, you will go through a doorway. As you walk through that doorway, you will see before you things that were never available to you before.

What is available to you now? The Bible calls it the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

This doorway leads to the supernatural and it is the only doorway into the supernatural that a Christian should go through.

This is the doorway that will prepare you to have supernatural gifts to do the work of the ministry. We will look in the next section at some of those gifts and how they operate.

SECTION 09 - GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

CHAPTER 21

Not Natural Gifts

Section 09 - Gifts of the Spirit

Chapter 21 – Not Natural Gifts

We come now to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. We saw that the baptism of the Spirit is the doorway by which we enter into the Gifts of the Spirit.

The first thing you need to be very clear on is that these gifts are not natural or in any way connected with natural gifts that we looked at earlier.

These gifts are 100% supernatural. They are totally miraculous and not something we can be trained how to do by studying.

We cannot get these abilities in any natural way in this world. So they can not be there until we are born again. In fact they also cannot be there until you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit.

They will not appear before you are born again and filled with the Spirit. So any supernatural manifestation you may have had before being born again was not from the Gifts of the Spirit.

If you experienced any supernatural manifestation before receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, then the chances are that you had something that was left over from before.

There is a danger here that can occur. The gifts only manifest **after** the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, but something else also tends to manifest then. Anything demonic that was resident within you will also manifest.

It is possible before salvation that there was a demonic power resident in you, either from birth or that you picked up along the way.

When you are born again the Holy Spirit comes into your spirit and a demon cannot live there anymore. It moves outwards and can remain in your body in the realm of your soul. It is still resident in you and may be either active or lying dormant.

If you do not allow yourself to come under any supernatural influence, that demonic power sometimes remains there waiting for an opportunity.

If there is anything else resident in you when you then walk through the doorway of the Baptism of the Spirit, then there is a good chance that it will now manifest.

There will suddenly be a conflict in the spirit between the Holy Spirit in your spirit, and this demon power that is now sitting in your body, probably in the soul.

This conflict occurs immediately and often happens when someone goes through the experience of the baptism of the Spirit.

There is total confusion, and a new kind of spiritual warfare that the person may not have known before.

When you were born again you declared war on Satan's camp. You now became an enemy of the one who before was your god in this world.

However you may not have been much of a threat to him yet and he did not give you much trouble. Probably all that he did up until then was to tempt you to sin and return to your old life.

But when you come through the doorway of the Gifts of the Spirit and open yourself to the supernatural, you enter a new realm of conflict and warfare. You are now a threat to the enemy, and Satan will immediately launch a counter attack against you in the Spirit.

Everyone experiences this conflict in some way, immediately after receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. So someone experiencing this for the first time needs to be very careful.

Do not think that because you have entered into a new awesome realm of the Spirit that things will be just wonderful.

When you first receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit you go on a high. It is like being high on a drug and a wonderful feeling. You

may feel like you are floating on the clouds. But then the clouds vanish into thin air and you find yourself hitting the ground.

Everything starts to go wrong in your life; your thoughts are filled with confusion, doubt and fear. You wonder if it was all your imagination or whether you have gone mad and are out of control.

Many things come against you. Satan is launching his counter attack. If you had anything that was there before that was not from God, now is the time that it will manifest. And now is the time when you will have to deal with it.

I will show you shortly how to deal with these things and how to get rid of them in your life. But I want to look first at the gifts of the Spirit themselves. You should understand how they work and what they are.

Paul lists these gifts for us in 1 Corinthians chapter 12 under three categories. The first are known as the Revelation Gifts, the second are the Power Gifts, and the third are the Vocal Gifts. And there are three gifts under each of these categories.

I will not go into a lot of detail, but I would like to explain these gifts to you quickly. You need to understand so that if one of these gifts manifests in you, you will know which gift it is.

I have heard people claiming to have gifts that do not occur in this list of nine. I will show you the kind of confusion that takes place as we discuss each one.

The Word of Wisdom

Paul says that there is given by the Holy Spirit, the word of wisdom. It does not say the gift of 'wisdom', but the word of wisdom.

What is wisdom? It is an ability to use knowledge to make choices concerning the future. A wise person is someone who can look at a situation, assess it and come to a conclusion saying,

"Under these circumstances, I would advise that you do such and such a thing."

Wisdom always tends to have a future orientation. The word of wisdom is a little piece of God's wisdom being dropped on you miraculously at a point in time.

Except for two of the gifts that can affect you personally, most of the time the gifts are used to minister to other people.

If you are ministering to someone and God gives you a word of wisdom, it means that God will drop into you, by revelation, a piece of His wisdom concerning that person.

This means that God will tell you something about that person that you do not know. He will tell you what purpose He has for that person concerning the future.

The word of wisdom is often seen in the Prophetic Ministry as an ability to predict the future. In the demonic realm, predicting the future and fortune telling is really not an ability at all. It is Satan giving his word of wisdom.

The main difference between Satan and God in this is that God does know the future.

Satan tries to create the future. So the demonic counterfeit of fortune telling is an attempt to manipulate someone into a situation where Satan can control their lives. He then creates what was predicted.

For example, you can go to a fortune teller and the fortune teller says,

"You will meet a man with blonde hair."

He will then give you a description of the person. You then open your heart to look for this man with blonde hair, and you put yourself into a situation where Satan can manipulate you. He will lead you to his choice of the right person who has blonde hair and will fulfill his own prophecy.

That is why when you become involved in the occult, fortune telling, horoscopes and such like, you do not get a true prediction.

You are actually putting yourself into the hands of Satan and allowing him to control your life, and to make the thing predicted come to pass.

When the Holy Spirit gives a word of wisdom, God gives a combination, not just a prediction. Understand clearly that the word of wisdom is not just a prediction.

The word of wisdom includes, with a foretelling of the future, what you need to do because of what will happen. This is very different.

What God says through the word of wisdom is,

"This is what I plan for you in the future. Now this is what you should do in order to bring the fulfillment of this prophetic word."

Alternately, it could be a warning. God might say instead,

"The road that you are walking on right now will cause you to have a bad experience up ahead."

This is not God telling you that you will have disaster as the fortune tellers do. God is telling you that the path you are on now and the influences that you are allowing in your life are leading you to a specific destiny. But God says,

"It does not have to happen. I can change it."

So when you operate in the gift of the word of wisdom, do not ever think that because you have insight into a future event in the person's life you should reveal this. You do not need to tell the person what you see in the future and predict what will happen to them.

You should either be telling the person that God wants to lead them on this path to a place of blessing, or that they are on a path that is leading to a curse.

God wants to divert them from the curse, and wants to give them instruction on how to do that. This means you must move beyond the revelation.

Be careful therefore when you receive revelation by the word of wisdom that you do not simply blurt out what you saw. You will put people into fear or give them false promises. Here is such an example.

"The Lord says you will be a millionaire!"

The person now thinks this is wonderful and it will just fall into their lap.

No, they must follow a specific path in order to become that millionaire, and they need some wisdom on how to do this. So do not go spouting what you saw without adding more to the revelation.

The gift of the word of wisdom has a foretelling operation with it, but it takes wisdom also to present it. That is why it is called the word of wisdom, not the gift of foretelling.

You must explain the path God wants them to go on, and how He wants to lead them.

The person must know what God wants to do and be open to His leading. They may need to be careful how they go because there may be problems up ahead.

This gift operates especially in the Prophetic Ministry and we will discuss it in detail when we study the Prophetic Ministry.

The Word of Knowledge

Wouldn't it be great, if instead of going to school or college and studying hard, God could supernaturally drop into your head everything you need to know?

Imagine if you could get the gift of knowledge and be really intelligent? Imagine if you could know a lot about many different

things? If this is what you thought this gift was, then you are wrong.

The word of knowledge is when God supernaturally puts into your mind, something that you did not know about a person concerning their past or their present.

The word of wisdom always has a future orientation, but the word of knowledge looks backwards.

With the word of knowledge God will show you something that happened in a person's life in the past; or God will tell you something that exists in the person's life at the present time.

The two gifts often tie strongly together. This is because sometimes it is necessary to know where a person has come from in order to know where they are going. God will use these for different purposes.

God does not tell us things about people just for our interest. It will never be a case of,

"Wow I did not know that about her. Thanks for telling me that, Lord. I can't wait to go and tell my friends."

Sign Ministries

God is giving a piece of something you need to know about that person. Sometimes it is a sign gift that will make that person open their heart to receive the ministry you are offering them.

People will often not believe that God is using you. Remember how Jesus handled the woman at the well? He told her to go and call her husband and she said that she was not married. He said,

"That is right, you are not married. You have had many men, and the one you are living with now is not your husband."

He told her something about her past. Jesus was operating in the word of knowledge, and when she heard that she said,

"Oh I can see you are a prophet; you know what you are talking about, so I had better be careful."

It was a sign that made her open her heart; a Samaritan woman opening her heart to a Jew, which she would not normally have done. So God used that as a sign ministry, and often all of the gifts will be used as sign ministries to open people's hearts wide.

God may even give it to you sometimes for an unbeliever, to open their heart and to see the supernatural. They will realize that they are dealing with someone who knows God well.

God can reveal things about people so that you can minister to them. Sometimes people will not come forward for prayer for their needs, and you need a word of knowledge to encourage them to do this.

So the word of knowledge will reveal itself in many different ways. We will look at this more later, and we will show some of the way that the gifts manifest and operate.

How does knowledge come to you and how do you receive these revelations? We will explain this well when it comes to developing and demonstrating the gifts, but God will reveal things in different ways.

He could show you that a person you are ministering to has had operations for a sickness or disease; that they currently suffer from a specific thing.

When you come to pray with someone for healing, God may show you what exactly is wrong with them.

I operate very much in this gift when it comes to healing. When I come to pray with a person I will find myself unconsciously moving my hand to the part of their body where the problem is.

I will sometimes ask the person if something is wrong there, and they will confirm that they have pain in that area.

I may also in the Spirit get a vision where I see their lungs or kidneys or another body part as though I were looking with x-ray vision.

Sometimes it looks like they are cut open on an operating table and I can look in and see what their body looks like. I can tell where there is a problem or inflammation or something that is out of order.

All of this comes by the word of knowledge. It is a very useful gift where healing is concerned.

You do not need to go through all the medical tests that cost a fortune and that the doctors put you through. And in the end they are seldom sure anyway.

With the word of knowledge God can reveal when you pray for somebody exactly what their problem is. You can tell them,

"I can see your heart and I can tell what condition it is in. I see you have a spot on your lungs."

Whatever it may be, God can show you things about the person through the word of knowledge and that is how it operates.

I have seen someone with a word of knowledge standing up in a meeting and saying,

"There is somebody here tonight; you have a pain in your right arm, reaching from the joint at the top and pushing down into the elbow."

He will describe it in detail and invite the person to come forward for prayer for healing. And sure enough, someone will stand up at the back of the church and come forward for prayer.

How did he know that? He knew it by the gift of the word of knowledge.

Discerning of Spirits

This gift is a tricky one. Many people think they have this gift, and they call it the gift of criticism. They claim that they can discern a person's spirit and know what someone else is thinking.

They claim to know what a person's faults and weaknesses are and have received this by revelation from God.

God did not reveal this; it was more likely a demon that revealed it. God does not tell you about other people's sins. Their sin is between them and God and has nothing to do with you.

The gift of discerning of spirits has nothing to do with fault finding and detecting other people's faults and weaknesses. It is quite simply the ability to detect the presence of angels and demons.

Mostly it involves detecting demons. This is because often in ministry when you come to pray with a person, you will find that there are demonic powers associated with their problem.

By the gift of discerning of spirits you can detect when a spirit is present. It can be detected in different ways. God could put the thought in your mind to let you know and He may reveal to you what kind of demon it is.

You could then say something like,

"There is an occult spirit here. Were you ever involved in the occult, because I discern the presence of an occult demon with you?"

You may also see it in the Spirit as I do. I can identify an occult demon because I have seen them many times.

The gift of discerning of spirits allows you to identify the presence of evil powers. When it first manifested in me, it showed itself in a totally different way. I will explain it more in future series as we look at developing and demonstrating these gifts.

So the gift of discerning of spirits is simply the ability to detect the presence of demonic powers in the lives of other people.

As you operate in it, you will gain insight into the realm of the Spirit and will begin to actually 'see' not only demons, but also angels.

All of these things are supernatural and operate under the anointing of God.

CHAPTER 22

The Power and Vocal Gifts

Chapter 22 – The Power and Vocal Gifts

The Gift of Faith

The first of the power gifts is faith. That may not sound like a gift at all, but it is supernatural faith that comes spontaneously in one sharp shot.

It gives the ability to know that you know without any doubt, and to be able to believe God for what seems impossible.

This provides a doorway to many other things, but most of the time it helps you more than it helps the other person. It gives you the ability to be able to speak decrees.

When you speak and release the Word of God with faith into the earth, it is very dynamic and powerful. You can speak things into existence through the gift of faith.

This is the kind of gift that some of the Patriarchs exercised when they laid hands on their children and predicted what their future was going to be. They did not merely predict the future, but they created it by decree using this gift of faith.

So this gift is not as clear and distinct in ministering to others, but you will know when you suddenly have the ability to believe for the impossible.

It is clearly not natural, because you had all the doubts in the world, but God suddenly gives you this miraculous input of faith.

The Gift of Miracles

The gift of miracles is the second power gift, which is the ability to supersede natural things.

You can break through everything that is natural. The gift of miracles can allow you to turn water into wine as Jesus did. It can take loaves and fishes and multiply them to feed thousands of people.

It is a gift which grants the release of God's power, and it is released in one quick, sharp shot. The gift of miracles may be involved beyond the gifts of healing, where for example a limb is recreated in a person.

This operates outside of the gifts of healing, which is the next gift.

The Gifts of Healing

This is always given in the plural. It is not the gift of healing, but the gifts of healings. There is more than one gift of healing, so when you hear someone claiming to have the gift of healing you will know that they are ignorant.

The gifts of healing are plural, and there are many of them. They will operate as the Holy Spirit chooses to give them. You will notice however that those who operate in a healing ministry will often have better results with certain diseases.

Most of the great evangelists of the past specialized in specific ailments. One may have specialized in cancer, another in deafness.

Often they would say that when they prayed for people with certain diseases, they would see healing most of the time.

That is how the gifts of healing operate. This gift is a supernatural power that reaches in and speeds up the natural healing processes of the body.

Our bodies were created to heal themselves, but the gifts of healing cause this process to be speeded up.

Healing is supernatural and is a spiritual power that is available. But the gifts of healing allow a supernatural release of power towards a person. It speeds up the healing process and they are healed very quickly.

The Gift of Tongues

The vocal gifts are pretty straightforward. The gift of tongues is simply the ability to speak in languages that you do not know. It is **not** the ability to understand a language you have never learned.

This gift does not suddenly give you the ability to speak in Chinese when you could not do it before. If I were to speak in Chinese in tongues, I would have no idea what I said. But if a Chinese person were present they would understand what I said.

It is called the gift of diverse or different tongues, which means there are many different kinds of languages spoken.

Many people, when they receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, speak in only one tongue which they seem to keep. You always hear them speaking in that same tongue.

The gift of tongues allows you to move into a greater realm of diversities of tongues. You may then use different tongues at different times.

I can usually choose from a list of tongues that I have available depending on which ones I feel like using. I can change my tongue by choice.

When you add this gift into ministry, it can be used to give an utterance in a public meeting. It is then followed up by the next vocal gift.

The Interpretation of Tongues

Interpretation is not necessarily translation. When someone speaks in tongues and an interpreter then speaks, the interpreter is not translating exactly word for word, what the person said in that tongue.

That is why you may sometimes hear someone give a short sharp word of tongues, and then the interpreter may speak for 10 minutes.

What the interpreter is doing is explaining in the normal language, the concept that the person spoke in tongues.

That is all this gift of interpretation of tongues involves.

The Gift of Prophecy

This gift is somewhat like a combination of tongues and interpretation. It is speaking God's word directly to a person. It means saying,

"This is what the Lord says to you right now."

God gives you a message to relay to a person, explaining and telling them what He says. It is usually a word of encouragement, especially when it is given in a public meeting.

When God gives you a word of prophecy in a public meeting, it is a bit like a mini sermon. God speaks a word of encouragement, and you could be ministering to many different people in the meeting at the same time.

When you prophesy over only one person at a time then it is clear you have been given something specifically for that one person.

God is giving you a specific word for that person. It will often be a word of encouragement, or it will confirm to the person something that they were thinking or praying about.

God may say something like,

"What you were thinking about doing in your heart is of me, and I will bless you and use you and fulfill it. You have been doing the right thing."

Prophecy is simply God giving a word of encouragement.

All of these things are 100% supernatural. You cannot make up speaking in tongues, and you cannot try to interpret because you think you understood some of the language.

When you give a prophetic word, you do not think to yourself,

"I can see that this person is out of order, and if I were the Lord I would really rebuke them."

If you stand up and begin to rebuke that person in the name of the Lord, it is not a prophetic word. Many prophets get this all wrong and need to be taught how to use the gifts correctly.

Natural and Supernatural

There are nine supernatural gifts, and if you are flowing in anything that is supernatural in your ministry, then you will be operating in one or more of these nine gifts.

Anything that falls outside of these is not the gifts of the Spirit. Any other kind of revelation or influence that you might think is a gift from God is in fact from the enemy.

Be very careful; the gifts are supernatural, and they are all very distinct.

I hope that you now understand the difference between the natural and the supernatural. In the final section of this study we will look quickly at how to deal with demonic influences and keep your heart clear.

Then finally I will show you the most powerful way of getting in to receiving these gifts.

In future series we will teach you to learn how to use these gifts and then to add them to your ministry. But in this final section of this series I will show you how to get these gifts.

SECTION 10 – RECEIVING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

CHAPTER 23

Dealing with the Demonic

Section 10 - Receiving Spiritual Gifts

Chapter 23 – Dealing With the Demonic

We are ready now to learn how to receive all of the supernatural gifts that you need; the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

However before we get to that, I want to quickly look at how to deal with the demonic. I have mentioned several times now, the fact that often what we think are gifts from God are actually demonic influences.

We have picked these up along the way; from other people, from associations, from involvement in the occult or whatever the case may be. So let's look at how we deal with these things in our lives.

If you do not deal with them, once you move into this realm of the Spirit there will come a conflict. You will continue to face this conflict and eventually Satan will win.

You will give up and be too afraid to operate in the real gifts because Satan always has a counterfeit for these.

If you have been operating in any of the counterfeit gifts, you will eventually not know which one is from the Lord and which is not. So you need to clear the air and get rid of all demonic influences.

Renouncing

The first thing you must learn is how to renounce. This is a very important process. The Scripture tells us in James 4:7,

Submit yourselves therefore to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you.

There are two processes there that need to be carried out.

1. Submit yourself to God
2. Resist the devil and he will flee

When you opened your heart to a demonic influence, you firstly did something that God said is wrong. God forbids us from doing that and it is sin, and so it affected your relationship with the Lord.

At the same time you also gave license to and invited a demon power to come and live with you; to influence your life from then on.

So when you come to dealing with these influences, the process of renouncing must address both of these things.

Confession of Sin

Renouncing must include confession of sin and this is the first action that you need to take.

Where you have personally opened your heart and become involved in the occult, or given license to any spiritual power, you must come to God and say,

"Father, I was wrong in allowing this thing and I confess it as sin. I receive your forgiveness and cleansing now in Jesus' Name."

You now re-establish your relationship with God.

Then you must address the demon by speaking to it and saying,

"Satan, I renounce every hold that I have given to you in my life now. I make it clear to you that I want nothing more to do with you. I don't want your gifts; I don't want your influences and I command you to leave now in Jesus' Name."

Do not try to do this in your mind because the enemy cannot read your mind. Speak verbally out loud to the demon as though there was a person standing in front of you.

That demon now has to leave.

Family Generations

When it comes to family generations you must do something similar. The difference now is that this influence did not come as a direct result of your own sin.

If you submitted to it and received it, then of course you are also responsible and it is a double thing.

What you are doing is renouncing family generations, so once again it is a simple prayer. You submit yourself to the Lord and say,

"Lord, forgive me for allowing these family generations to affect me. Now in the Name of Jesus I renounce all spiritual links going back into my family generations.

"I reject this influence that came down from my parents and grandparents or wherever it came from. I have nothing to do with this; I cut that tie now and I reject it in Jesus' Name."

You do not need to keep doing this; it only needs to be done once.

However each time you make contact with family members who are still under the influence of those generational bondages, be careful. They may try to come back and affect you again.

Dealing with Idols

We have now renounced both of those demonic influences, but there is another thing that can hold these things in place. I would like to call these idols.

You may think that we no longer worship idols these days. But you would be surprised how many idols you may have in your home.

An idol is simply an object that allows you to communicate with the spiritual world. Our only 'idol' where God is concerned is Jesus; He is the mediator between God and men.

Any object in this world that you use to receive blessing from God is an idol. This includes crucifixes, St Christophers, and any other object that you might think gives you spiritual influence.

Get rid of these things because they are idols in your life. This includes anything that is sentimental to you, especially family heirlooms; anything that belonged to your mother or grandmother, etc.

There may be nothing wrong with the object itself. But it carries a contamination which can encourage the family generation influence to affect you.

Personal Relationships

Sometimes even a person can be an idol, and relationships can open doors to the enemy. So be careful of relationships where you have opened your heart to people. You will continue to receive that influence.

Every time you get together with family, learn to do the following. The moment you leave their presence, take a fresh stand and say,

"In the Name of Jesus I renounce any influence that came upon me now; I break every curse and command it to leave."

You might think that this is paranoia. But when you move in the realm of the supernatural, you cannot afford to have any kind of supernatural influence in your life that does not come from God.

So watch out for relationships. It does not matter if they are family relationships or friends that you have. They are people that are an open door to the enemy and your ministry will be affected by it.

As a child of God and someone who is called to move into ministry, be careful and selective as to whom you have as friends. A friend is someone you open your heart to.

As a minister you must open your heart wide to pour out to others. But you should never be opening your heart wide to

receive back from those same people. You will receive a contamination.

Do not expect people to recognize your ministry; to give you acceptance and recognition and meet **your** need when you minister to them.

There is a danger that you will open your heart to an influence that is coming from them. If you do it you will pick up that demonic contamination which will affect you supernaturally.

Receiving the Gifts of the Spirit

How then do we receive the gifts? I made it clear that you do not receive them at birth. What you received from birth, if it was supernatural, came from your family generations.

I don't care if your family generations were spirit-filled, born again, Gospel preaching believers.

I came from three generations of Christians. Both my parents and grandparents were born again, spirit-filled believers who were on fire for God and came from the early revivals.

I had a good strong Christian heritage, but there were still demonic things there that I had to renounce. The time came when I even had to renounce the 'blessings' that came down to me from them. God had called me to something different.

It is possible to receive good things; spiritual influences from your parents that come down which cause you to be held in special favor.

In the place where God said He would visit the iniquity of the parents on the children, to the third and fourth generations, He said something else also. He said that when it comes to blessing He will cause this to come down to thousands.

Exodus 20:5 and 6 says this:

You shall not bow down yourself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD your God [am] a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of

*the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth [generation] of those that hate me;
And showing mercy to thousands of those that love me, and keep my commandments.*

There is no limitation to the blessing of God, and it is wonderful if you can also receive blessing from your family generations. But be very careful because there are many other things mixed up with that blessing.

This leads into the concept of family DNA which I will not be dealing with here.

A simple rule is to be very careful about any influence that was with you from birth. Those things must be dealt with, but we will consider more as we go on.

Three Ways to Receive Gifts

There are different ways in which you can receive the gifts of the Spirit.

Direct from the Lord

You can receive these firstly, direct from the Lord. Since they are the gifts of the Holy Spirit, when you come into a relationship with the Holy Spirit He may manifest those gifts in and through you directly as He chooses.

It is wonderful if you can get something that is unique. When this happens, you may find that the way you manifest any of the nine gifts is different to how other people do it.

God can give you a unique manifestation of a gift and this may sometimes be confusing. You see yourself operating in a gift in a way that is different to how other people operate it.

You thought you knew how the gift operated by looking at others. It always seems to work the same in them, but it operates differently in you.

That is because you received it directly from the Lord and not via someone else. Does this mean then that you can also get it from someone else? You certainly can.

By Prophetic Release

The second way of receiving gifts is by release from a prophet. A prophet cannot impart spiritual gifts to you, but he or she can speak a word of decree to release a gift within you.

A prophet may have a revelation for you. It is in fact a major function of the Prophetic Ministry to identify gifts and ministries in people. The prophet then speaks a decree to release those gifts and ministries in the person.

It is possible for a prophet to prophesy over you and release, say the gifts of healing within you so that you are released into a healing ministry. From that time these things may begin to manifest in you.

By Apostolic Impartation

The apostle alone has the ability to not only release gifts by decree, but he or she can also impart to you directly the gifts that are resident in him or her.

An apostle can, by the laying on of hands, communicate the gift that they have. You can see this in the Acts of the Apostles after Philip had preached in Samaria.

They had a revival and Peter and John were sent down to come and lay hands on the people. When they did this, the people received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and spoke with other tongues. There was an impartation of the anointing.

You will often find that people in a specific group all manifest gifts in a similar way. Those who receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, under the influence of the same minister will often speak in the same tongue as that person.

It means that they received it via another person. It is still the anointing of the Holy Spirit. But God has used that person to

communicate it to you and you get the 'flavor' as it were, of how God uses that person in this gift.

The gifts are still 100% supernatural, but there is a mode of operation that is the same as someone else. This happens especially if an apostle imparts a gift to you.

You will likely find yourself operating in the gifts in exactly the same way as that person does. This happens often.

We see then three different ways of receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

CHAPTER 24

A Better Way

Chapter 24 - A Better Way

You may have tried all of the three ways mentioned in the last chapter, but you are still battling to enter into some of the gifts. You desire the Lord to use you and you have reached out to Him, but somehow He has not given it to you.

Perhaps nobody has ever prophesied over you yet, and no apostle has ever laid hands on you to impart yet. But you really are crying out to the Lord and desiring it from Him.

Paul told us that there are two ways of receiving spiritual gifts. But you see something different at the end of 1 Corinthians 12 where he has given us a summary of how all these things work. He says,

I will show you are more excellent way.

Later, in chapter 14 of this book he summarizes his teaching and shows that there are two things that we should do as follows:

1. Follow after love
2. Earnestly desire spiritual gifts

Love Comes First

I assume that by now you already have a passionate desire for these gifts. That is a good start, but following after love actually comes first, and this is the tricky part.

Love is always other-oriented and unselfish. I remember in my own experience when I first received the Baptism of the Spirit, was turned on to the Lord and began to move in the supernatural.

I wanted to be used by the Lord, and I bombarded everyone with questions and cried out to the Lord, asking,

"Lord, how can I get this?"

I remember someone telling me,

"Les, the key is love. Love is the key to entering into the Gifts of the Spirit."

I did not understand how that worked so I began to wait on the Lord to find out. I realized that if God was going to use me to minister to other people, I needed to have the correct motive for ministry.

I wanted to be used by God in ministry so that I could be a 'hot shot'. I wanted to feel good about myself and have people feel good about me. I wanted to prove to those who thought I was a loser, that I was really not one.

When it comes to ministry there are often a whole lot of selfish motivations all mixed in there. But unless your ministry is totally love-motivated and other-oriented, why should God give you His power?

Will He do it to make you look good? That is not what it is for. The gifts are always given to minister to other people.

I remember crying out to the Lord with this earnest desire. I so wanted to be used by Him, and I came up with a way of getting myself in a place where God could use me.

How to Develop Love

As I looked at people in general, I had to admit that I did not have very much love at all. It is easy to love those that are good to you and those that you know.

But I found myself sitting in my car in town watching people walk by. As I watched them walking by, the Lord spoke in my heart and said to me,

"Do you realize that I love every one of those people the same way that I love you?"

That really touched my heart. There were some people out there who were not very pretty. Try some time sitting out in the marketplace and watching people.

There are some not really nice people out there; people that you would not even want to hold a conversation with. But Jesus loves them.

Then He said to me,

"I want you to start, in the Spirit, changing your attitude towards every person that you see. Get My love to flow out of you; because if you can learn to do that, I will give you what you need to love them with."

He said He would then give me the power that I needed.

You may really want to be used in healing. But do you care for the sick? Are you so concerned with those who are sick and suffering that your heart cries out?

"Oh Lord, if I could only reach out, lay my hands on them and pray the prayer of faith and see them get healed."

Or are you perhaps thinking?

"I would really like to be used by God so that everyone is talking about me and wanting to come to me with their problems."

You want to become famous as being 'the healer'.

God will not give His honor to another. So the way I started out was simply to make a point, wherever I went, of looking at every person with different eyes.

I began to look at them through the eyes of the Lord, and I started to say under my breath or even out loud,

"Jesus loves you and I also love you."

It gets stuck in your mouth the first time you try it. Start by picking the ugly people first. Pick someone from a racial group, gender, age or type that you do not particularly like. Tell them that Jesus loves them and that you love them.

The Lord said I should then go beyond that and pray for them. That person has a need. Every person you see has their own

personal conflicts and needs. To themselves, they are the most important person in the world.

Do you care? Because the Lord said, "I care."

I began to enter into their experience and see each one as a person in need. What kind of need do they have? Do they have a financial need? Are they lonely? Are they suffering in their body with sickness and disease?

Are they born again and going to Heaven? Are they struggling or feeling depressed? Take a good look and tell the Lord that you want to be His instrument of blessing.

It Works

I gave it a try and began to pray,

"Jesus loves you, and I love you. Lord I just pour your love out now towards that person and I speak your blessing on them."

Bam! Something took place inside of me and I thought,

"Wow, where did that come from?"

Suddenly the anointing of God began to manifest upon me and I started to feel the power of God.

What happened? It was the power of love.

The key to all kinds of ministry is the power of love. Follow after love first, and then desire spiritual gifts.

When your heart is filled with love for God's people and for the world out there that need Him, then God will give you what you desire.

Then you can take those tools and use them to pour His love out towards the people. That is the key to blessing. Love must come first, and then the desire.

Combining the Two Kinds of Anointing

To understand the realm of love, let us return once more to man's makeup of spirit, soul and body.

We saw earlier that there are two kinds of anointing - the Internal Anointing and the External Anointing.

The Internal Anointing starts from deep within and pours outwards. Think of it as being an underground stream, deep inside of you that you can tap into and draw water from.

The External Anointing is the power that comes from outside. You can think of that as a thunderstorm that comes upon you and saturates you until you are drenched.

These are two different kinds of flow, but where does the love come from? It comes from the Internal Anointing.

If you look at Paul's description of love in 1 Corinthians 13, you will see that what he describes includes all the Fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5.

That is the passage about walking in the Spirit and manifesting the fruit of the Spirit.

You can walk in love and have no power at all, except to put your arms around people to tell them that you love and care for them.

You could win a lot of people to the Lord that way, but you will not get people healed or receive prophetic words for them.

You will not be able to give them a word of wisdom or word of knowledge. You won't be able to move in the miraculous or supernatural. You need the External Anointing for that.

But what would happen if you could somehow combine the two kinds of anointing together? This is what Paul begins to describe in 1 Corinthians 13.

Coming to Maturity

I want to look at some verses now from that chapter. 1 Corinthians 13:8 says:

Divine love never loses its efficiency: but if [there are] prophecies, they will come to an end; if [there are] tongues, they will cease; if [there is] knowledge, it will vanish away.

This sounds almost as though you do not need the Gifts of the Spirit any more. Is that not what it sounds like?

Surely Paul is not telling us to take love and drop the Gifts of the Spirit? But there is more. Verse 9 says:

For our knowledge is limited, and our prophecy is limited.

He says that our knowledge and prophecy are limited. Why are they limited?

When we considered the Gifts of the Spirit, I said that the word of knowledge and word of wisdom are just a small piece of what God has. They do not involve infinite wisdom or knowing all things. They are only a small piece.

When you get a prophetic word it is one short word concerning a specific situation and circumstance. It applies only to now, and then it is over.

All of these gifts have their place, but they are limited. Paul tells us that we can come to a place where we break free of the limitations. He goes on and tells us more. He says in verse 10:

But when maturity has come, then the limitations will be removed.

The older translations said when that which is perfect has come, and some people said that this referred to the Bible. But Paul was speaking about maturity. He says in verse 13:

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

He says that before we reach maturity, it is like looking through a mirror and seeing a puzzling image. But when we come to maturity, then it will be like seeing face to face. Verse 12 says:

For now we see through a mirror, a puzzling image; but then [we will see] face to face: now I know partially; but then I will know just as I also am known.

He says that when you get to that place, you will know as you are known.

How then do you get to this place of maturity? How can you come to a place where you no longer need to be limited; where you no longer need limited knowledge?

How can our knowledge expand beyond the little revelations that we get from the Gifts of the Spirit?

Maturity Involves Both Anointings

What exactly is maturity? It is when both the Internal and External Anointing combine together and flow at the same time.

In Part 1 of this book on Finding Your Ministry Calling, we spoke about the dove with its two wings. On one side are the Gifts of the Spirit, and on the other are the Fruit of the Spirit.

When you combine these two together and you come to minister, you no longer need to wait for an external anointing to come.

Anyone who has ever stood up to preach to a group knows this experience.

There are times when you stand up to preach and the power of God comes down on you. The External Anointing hits you so strong that you feel like a roaring lion.

But there are other times when things seem to go wrong and the Lord is not there. Then you are only human and you struggle through the whole time. It is an unpleasant experience.

Paul says that if you can come to a place of maturity, you no longer need to rely on one anointing or the other. You put the two of them together. Then as you tap into your underground stream and combine it with the external, the limitations fall away.

After you have received your word of wisdom or word of knowledge from the Lord and that gift has accomplished its purpose, you are not stuck without any further revelation.

You have access to something far deeper inside of you. You have a face-to-face experience with the Lord Himself.

Relationship with Jesus and the Spirit

When you combine the two kinds of anointing together, you come into a new intimate relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit together.

This takes you to a new level of spirituality. The Lord now becomes so real to you that you can hear His voice speaking to you as though you were talking with a friend.

The mechanics of things now change. As you come to pray with someone, the Lord could give you a revelation or a prophetic word to speak over them. But you do not need to be limited by that. You could stop right there and say,

"Lord, tell me more. I need to know more so that I can give this person direction in their life and you have not given me a word of wisdom or knowledge or any other revelation.

You have not given me a prophetic word. Lord, show me what your purpose is for this person."

Then you will hear His voice speaking to you from deep down within.

You will develop a relationship with the Lord so that if you are walking down the street and you see someone needing ministry, you do not need to wait for the Gifts of the Spirit to operate.

The Lord is so real to you that He is walking by your side. All you need to do is turn to Him and ask,

"Lord, what do you want to do here?"

Then the Lord will tell you what He wants to do. Then you say,

"Lord, what do you want **me** to do?"

The Lord will then tell you what He wants you to do. So all you need to do is simply walk over and do what He told you to do.

Is this not what is involved in walking in the Spirit? It is hearing His voice and doing what He tells you to do.

If you can learn to tap into both kinds of anointing and allow your inner gifts to flow out, God can now even begin to use some of your natural gifts.

He can anoint them with His Spirit, coming up from deep within, as you have submitted those gifts to Him. You can combine them with the external gifts that He brings upon you.

If there are no gifts of healing, you can still lay your hands on the person and speak a word of authority and faith.

You can release and pour into them what God has put into you. It may not be as powerful, but it will have an effect. You are no longer limited by saying,

"I have this gift, and I have that gift."

You now have the Lord Jesus and you have the Holy Spirit. Together they are the ultimate gift, and all that you will ever need in order to do the work of the ministry.

When you stand up to speak, you are speaking for Him. You are speaking under His power and you are hearing His words.

Do It the Right Way

Sometimes preachers like to get very spiritual, and I have seen them do it. They will stand up there, look upwards as though they are talking directly to the Lord and say,

"Yes Lord? What is that you said? Ok Lord, I will tell that to the people."

They will then say to the people that the Lord just told them to say this. I personally do not like such antics. I think preachers do it to make themselves look really spiritual and make people think they are such wonderful men or women of God.

However it is possible to come to that place. God could stop you in the middle of your preaching and tell you to say something different. You then simply obey His instructions.

Does this mean that you received a revelation? Did you get a prophetic word? Was it a word of wisdom that God gave you? No, He simply spoke to you and said,

"Stop and say this."

Which gift of the Spirit does that fall under? You cannot really define it as such. But it is walking in a new relationship with the Lord where Jesus now walks in you.

Then when you go out, Jesus does through you whatever He chooses to do.

Summary of the Principles

All of these abilities are available to us. So as we come to the end of this teaching, you need to remember these main principles.

1. You need to identify your gifts.
2. Identify those things that you had early in life.
3. Identify the things that you developed over time.

4. Identify what you received at salvation when you accepted Jesus as your Savior.
5. Identify what you received with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
6. Identify what you received by prophetic decree or impartation from an apostle.

All of these are different ways to receive gifts, and as you put all of them together you should be able to assess yourself and say,

"These are all the gifts and abilities that God has given me."

Now that you know this, what will you do with it? Let me tell you what the Lord wants you to do with it.

He wants you to go out and love people with it.

That is all He wants you to do, and in summary this is what we will cover in the next module on Demonstrating Your Gifts. But it will be much bigger than that.

For now I have tried to help you identify what God has put into you. I want you to see what is available to you and I have explained to you how to go about getting it.

As you have reached out and received these things from the Lord, you may think that you are now ready to go out and do the work. But it is not as easy at that.

The first time I spoke in tongues I had to speak very fast without thinking about what I was saying. As I learned to develop that gift over time I became more confident until I could speak in tongues as slowly as I do in my normal language.

All of the gifts need to be developed and you need to learn how to use them. After receiving them, you need to learn how they should be brought to life and released outwards.

We will look at this in more detail in the next series on how to develop your spiritual gifts. I will share many of my own

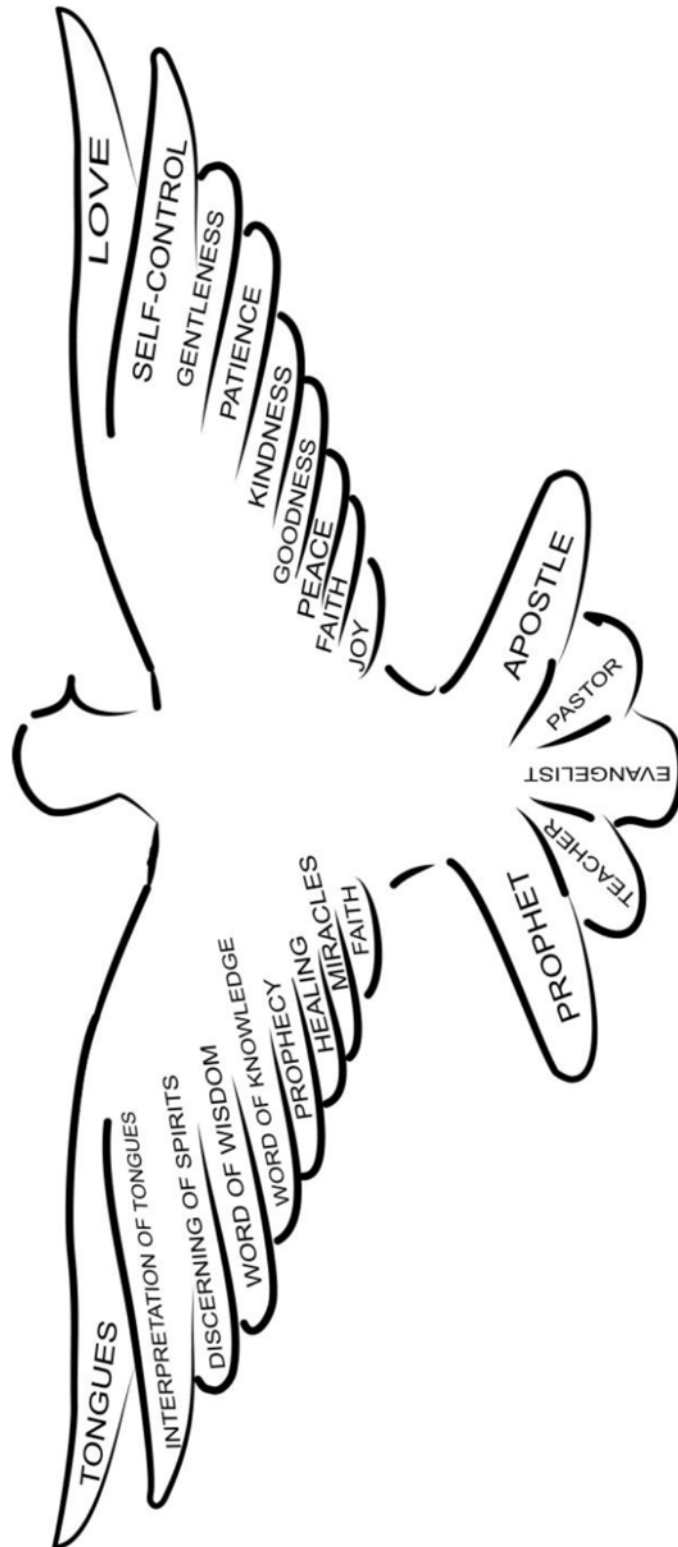
experiences so that you can more easily identify what you are experiencing.

You will then understand better where you are headed. For now I hope you are excited about the gifts and have been able to find some of your own gifts.

I hope that you are inspired to reach out and receive all that the Lord has for you.

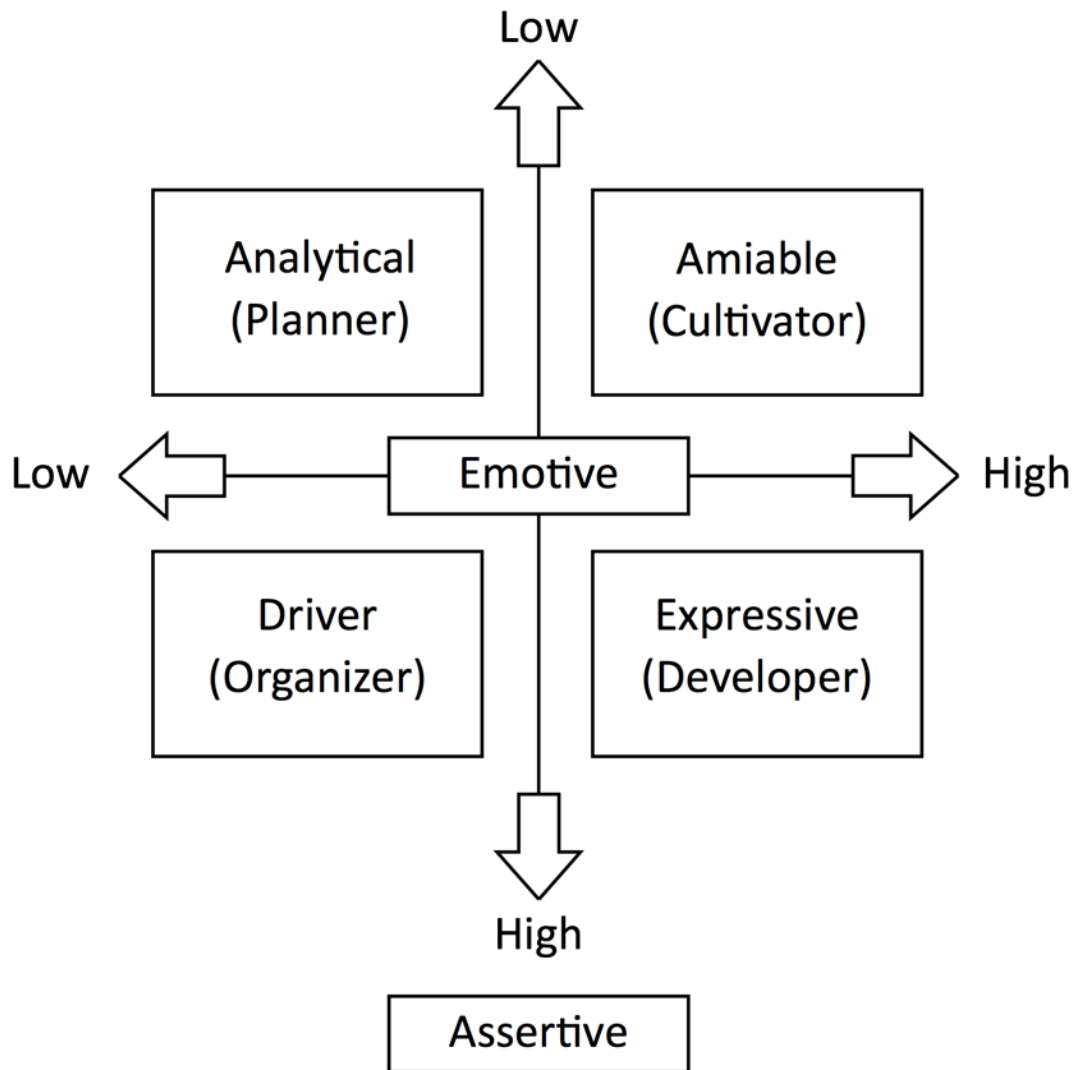
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