

APPLICATION

- The Holy Spirit has a presence about Him, He has a personality and He has skills and abilities.
- The Holy Spirit wants you to sense His presence.
- He wants His personality to be a blessing to you and to influence your personality so you will be more like Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit wants to use His skills and abilities to help us.
- To make all this possible, since we don't deserve such a great a blessing as to be able to experience and display the Holy Spirit, God gives us this ability through His grace. Grace is the undeserved and unmerited blessing, favor and empowerment of God.
- If you believe in and follow Jesus Christ, God has given grace to you so that you can experience the presence of the Holy Spirit, be blessed by His personality and be used to show forth the Holy Spirit's help in your life.
- God wants to use you to display His Spirit to the world. Therefore God asks us to eagerly desire the things of the Holy Spirit so that we can make Him clearly known to others.
- This week ask God to use you more to show Himself to those around you through the Holy Spirit.

Prayer

Oh Father, make us more aware of the presence of Your Holy Spirit. Help us to be more influenced by His nature and personality. Help us to be more willing to show Him to others. Forgive us when we have not made clear the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Forgive us for not wanting to show the Holy Spirit's help, abilities, gifts and power in and through our lives. Forgive us especially for when we make these abilities appear to be our own. Help us to truly show the fullness of the Spirit to the world, to Your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen



Gifts of The Holy Spirit

NOTES

WARM-UP

- All of my kids have different personalities and talents. One loves books and reads a lot, another is naturally good in sports, another is great at business, one learns quickly and easily, one is discerning people person, and one is very artistic. What are some of the special abilities of your kids, grandkids or siblings?
- Can you remember a time when you tried something new that you did not know you could do only to find out that it was relatively easy for you and you were naturally good at it?

WORD

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. 1 Corinthians 12:1

As I shared in the previous study (on the personality of the Holy Spirit), I am privileged to be able to be a part of several different companies. One of those companies is a general construction company. As a general contractor we receive requests from both residential and commercial customers to do a wide variety of construction work. Sometime they ask us to do work that I am not sure we have the skill to do.

A recent request into our company was to re-roof a larger commercial building. It has a rubber roof. I have done some rubber roofing in the past but not on this large of scale. So I shared this with the customer. Unfortunately, they did not know anyone else around their area who had any experience and could do the work. They would have to pay someone from outside of the area to come in. So he asked me to please consider it. I told him I would talk to my employees and see if we could help him.

I then talked to my employees. To my surprise, one of my guys not only has done a good bit of rubber roofing but he is certified to do the work! I did not even know that the help I needed to serve my customer had already been there all along. When I hired him, he brought skills and abilities that I knew about, but also some that I was not aware he had. This is true of everyone in our lives. They carry knowledge, skills and abilities, some of which we may not even be aware they have.

1 - God Helps Us

Those of us who have asked Jesus to be in our lives have been promised that He will be with us forever through the presence of His Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit comes into our lives He not only brings His presence and personality, as we talked about in our last study, but He also brings His skills and abilities. We often don't think of God's presence in our lives in this way, but the Scriptures tell us that God wants to teach us, lead us, empower us, show us new things and help us in every way we need. What are some of the ways that you have experienced God helping you?

2 - Holy Spirit's Gifts

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He distributes them to each one, just as He determines.
1 Corinthians 12:7-11

The Holy Spirit has skills and abilities that He wants to use to help us. The Bible calls these gifts. Many times we think of these as gifts He gives to us. In a sense this is true because He may help us in these ways. To think of them as gifts "we have" however, often causes us to focus on the gifts a person "has" instead of the giver of the gift. The One who truly possesses those skills and abilities is the Holy Spirit. If we read the Scriptures carefully, the gift that is actually given to us is to manifest the Spirit. To manifest means to display or show; to exhibit or express; to make clear or obvious. In other words, we are to display the Holy Spirit; to show Him to the world; to express Him to others; to make Him clear or obvious. At one time, or through one person, the Holy Spirit may choose to reveal Himself one way. Then, through another person, or at another time, the Holy Spirit may choose to reveal Himself in a different way. He is the one who has the gifts or abilities and distributes them. Our gift is to manifest Him. The gift of God's grace is that we would be able to show the Holy Spirit's presence, personality and abilities to others! How is this understanding similar to or different than the way you thought of Spiritual gifts?

3 - Desire the Gifts!

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit. 1 Cor. 14:1

The verse above, in the original Greek, actually says to eagerly desire spiritual things. We are to desire the things of the Spirit. Why? Because God wants us to use our gift, which is to manifest or to show the Holy Spirit to others. God wants us to show the Holy Spirit's presence, personality and abilities to others. Have you eagerly desired spiritual gifts? Why or why not?