



Fruit Full Ness

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS
IN THE BIBLE**

“There are different kinds of gifts,
but the same Spirit distributes
them. There are different kinds of
service, but the same Lord. There
are different kinds of working,
but in all of them and in everyone
it is the same God at work.”

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 -

FRUIT-FULL-NESS: SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE BIBLE

The Spirit of God has moved amongst and through his people since the beginning. The Spirit aids and empowers regular, broken people to effectively and miraculously witness to who God is and what he does. God wants to be known, and so through his Spirit he distributes various supernatural gifts amongst his people - from seemingly innocuous gifts of hospitality, kindness and joy, through to the ability to speak and understand other languages, to prophecy, and to perform miracles on God's behalf.

These spiritual gifts are called spiritual gifts for good reason. They are gifts that are given by the Spirit. They are good gifts given for a good and proper purpose. Since they are good gifts, God's people are to receive them with thankful hearts and seek to be faithful stewards of these riches. These gifts are undeserved and God gives them by his grace and love.

As mentioned above, God gives these gifts for the purpose of being known. We see this play out in three main ways: 1. For the common good and blessing of others; 2. For the building up, strengthening and unifying of the church; and 3. To testify to the glory and wonder of God, who is all powerful, all knowing, and ever present.

In preparing this series, I've enjoyed how broad it is. We explore all the way from the beginning of the Old Testament through to Paul's letters of the New Testament. This study aims to give us an overview of the new and abundant life that God wants to work and grow both in you and throughout his church. I pray that as you open the Scriptures, your heart and mind would be open to the moving and empowering of the Spirit, and that God would use each of us for his glory.

God bless you,

*Rev'd Scott Windred
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Warming up:

What qualities and traits do you get from your mother? What qualities and traits do you get from your father?

Read: Exodus 31:1-11

1. Which two people does this passage focus on, and what has the Spirit of God empowered them to do?
2. Where does this passage fit in the Bible and God's story of salvation?
3. Why do you think the ancestors of these people are listed in this passage (see v.2 and v.6)?
4. What was the Tabernacle, and what was its purpose? (See Exodus 25:1-9)
5. Where do you find it easiest to connect with God?
6. What sort of technologies/spaces does your church use to help people connect with God?
7. Who has God used in your life to help you grow in your faith? How did those people use their gifts to help you bear fruit?
8. How do you see the people in your church using the gifts the Holy Spirit has given them to bear fruit in your community?
9. How might the Holy Spirit be calling you to use your gifts to help others connect with God and bear fruit in your community?

Rubber hits the road:

In your Bible study group (or by yourself), write down a list of passions you have (e.g.: social justice, biblical literacy, empowering youth, etc). Then write a list of gifts you have as a group (e.g.: reading, financial literacy, changing tyres, cooking, etc.).

Notes / Prayer points / etc.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, thank you so much for the gifts and talents you have given me. Please help me to use my spiritual gifts to bless others and build your Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.



Warming up:

We say this every time we share in Communion - so what does it mean to be a 'living sacrifice'?

Read: Romans 12:1-21

1. Why is it significant that we offer our bodies as living sacrifices?
2. What does it mean to **not** conform to the pattern of this world?
3. Paul tells us to 'be transformed'. Who should transform us, and how?
4. In v.3, Paul encourages us to be humble. Why is this important for mission?
5. Paul describes many gifts here (vv.4-6) and others elsewhere. How does he encourage us to use those gifts?
6. How do each of these gifts contribute to the mission of the Church?
7. Paul seems to shift focus in v.9. How is this related to what he has said before this?
8. Paul emphasises our need to live in harmony and work in unity as a church. How does this impact our mission?

Rubber hits the road:

Last week, you reflected on your passions and gifts. This week, consider the gifts with which God has gifted you. How do you already use them? How might you grow in use of them for God's mission?

Notes / Prayer points / etc.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the gifts that you have given each one of us. We thank you that together, you have equipped your church for your mission. Please use us in every way for this mission, so that the whole world would come to know and worship you. Amen.



Warming up:

Think of someone who you regard as reflecting holiness. What is it about them that makes you see holiness in their life?

Read: Galatians 5:16-26

1. In v.16 Paul says, 'walk by the Spirit'. What do you think this means in contrast to 'walking by the flesh'?
2. What has been your experience of walking in the Spirit versus following the desires of the flesh?
3. What's the significance of being led by the Spirit in our daily lives?
4. Read Galatians 5:22-23 and identify the nine fruits of the Spirit. Consider how the concept of holiness relates to each fruit of the Spirit.
5. How does cultivating these fruits in our lives contribute to our growth in holiness?
6. In vv.24-25 Paul talks about crucifying the flesh with its passions and desires. What is the significance of crucifixion as a symbol of putting to death our sinful nature?
7. What practical ways can we crucify the passions and desires of flesh in our daily lives?
8. In vv.25-26, Paul encourages us to live by the Spirit and keep in step with the Spirit. What does it mean to walk in step with the Spirit - in our relationships, work, and the way we behave?

Rubber hits the road:

What are some practical ways that we can encourage accountability and support with one another to walk in holiness?

Notes / Prayer points / etc.

Prayer

God, thank You for the precious gift of holiness, given to us through Your Spirit. Help us to cherish this gift, to walk in its light, and to reflect Your purity and grace in all we do. May Your holiness be evident in our words, actions, and thoughts, drawing others closer to You. Guide us, empower us, and transform us into vessels of Your glory.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



Warming up:

What's the best gift that you've given someone?

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

1. What does Paul want the Corinthians to be informed about? (v. 1)
2. In vv. 2-3, what sort of confession does Paul say comes from the Holy Spirit? What confession **doesn't** come from the Holy Spirit? What do you think Paul means by this?
3. The church in Corinth was described by Paul as being very spiritual and not lacking any of the spiritual gifts (1 Cor 1:7), but were a bit of a mess with arguments and disunity. Why do you think vv. 4-7 are so relevant and important?
4. What spiritual gifts are listed in vv. 8-10? How are these similar and different to those we have already looked at during this study?
5. What has Paul already written to the Corinthians about? See:
 - Wisdom (1 Corinthians ch. 1-2)
 - Knowledge (1 Corinthians 1:5, ch. 8, 13:8, 14:6)
 - Faith (1 Corinthians 2:5, ch. 13)
 - Prophecy (1 Corinthians 13:8, ch. 14)
 - Tongues (1 Corinthians ch. 13-14)
6. Does Paul refer to these spiritual gifts as good gifts or bad gifts?
7. How would you summarise 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 into one sentence?

Rubber hits the road:

The church in Corinth knew Jesus as Lord and Saviour, they had received the Holy Spirit, and were filled with many spiritual gifts. However, they were not unified with their fellow believers or blessing others with these gifts. How can we seek to grow in the spiritual gifts that have been given to us so that we might bless others with them?

Notes / Prayer points / etc.

Prayer

Gracious God, you are the giver of all good gifts. We thank you for pouring your Spirit onto us and blessing us with gifts that empower us for ministry. Please help us to use these gifts for your glory, for the building up of your church, and to bless others. Amen.



Warming up:

What is the best team you've ever been part of? What made it special?

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

1. Summarise this passage in three points.
2. What is Paul talking about when he speaks about 'the body'? What unifies this body in v.13?
3. In vv.15-20, different parts of the body go rogue. What happens when they do this? Have you seen this in communities of which you've been part?
4. Honour and suffering are a focus in vv.21-26. How can we honour one another more in our church communities? How can we support each other better through suffering?
5. What are the different gifts and roles described in vv.27-30?
6. How do these roles build up the body?
7. What other roles would you add for this list for your church community?
8. What do you think are the greater gifts referred to in v.31?

Rubber hits the road:

Are there areas in my life where I cut myself off from the body of Christ? How can I use the gifts I've been given to better serve the whole body? How can we be praying for one another as we seek to use our gifts more fruitfully?

Notes / Prayer points / etc.

Prayer

Living Lord, thank you that you have called me into your church. Thank you that your Holy Spirit is with us, empowering us and guiding us to bear fruit for your kingdom. Keep me from selfishness and help me never to think that I can survive without other members of your body. Amen.



Warming up:

Have you ever felt unwelcome or out of place before? Why?

Read: 1 Corinthians 14:1-5

1. Paul starts this section by encouraging us to follow the way of love, what does he mean here? (Hint: read ch.13)
2. Paul then speaks of two spiritual gifts. What are they, and what is your experience with them?
3. Why does Paul prefer one over the other in the church service?
4. What is the point of prophecy in the church? Why is edification so important to Paul?

Read: 1 Corinthians 14:6-25

1. Why does Paul discourage speaking in tongues in the church service?
2. What kind of things do we do today that might have the same effect?
3. What should our public worship communicate to the world?
4. How does all of this relate to Paul's first imperative to follow the way of love?

Rubber hits the road:

How can we help people to more fully participate in worship in our church?



Warming up:

When you feel, hear, and see a violent wind, what is your initial reaction?

Read: Acts 2:1-21

1. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. Describe the events that occurred on the day of Pentecost according to Acts 2:2-4. How did the Holy Spirit manifest?
3. What is the significance of the disciples being filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues? (Acts 2:4-11)
4. According to Peter's sermon, what was the purpose of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost? (Acts 2:17-18)
5. How did the people respond to Peter's sermon, and what was Peter's call to action? (Acts 2:37-39)
6. How does the concept of being filled with the Holy Spirit relate to bearing the fruit of the Spirit? (Galatians 5:22-23)
7. What are some examples of fruitfulness in the Spirit that you see in the lives of the early disciples following Pentecost? (Acts 2:41-47)

Rubber hits the road:

Reflecting on the events of Pentecost and the past six weeks of this series, how can you, your Bible study/small group, and your church community cultivate a deeper reliance on the Holy Spirit in our lives to bear fruit for God's kingdom?

Notes / Prayer points / etc.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit, who empowers us to live according to Your will. May Your Spirit work in and through us, bearing fruit that glorifies Your name. May we be vessels of Your grace, sharing Your love with others and drawing them into Your embrace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



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