

# THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



**A person who is born again receives (or, is baptized with) the Holy Spirit, without Whom it is impossible to lead a godly life:**

*(Mat. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 6:63; 14:16,17; 16:13,14; Acts 2:38; Rom. 8:6; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 5:16)*

**The Bible gives specific evidence that we are controlled by the Holy Spirit:**

- The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23)
- He gives us the confidence to share Christ (Acts 1:8)
- He gives us the capacity to praise together, have music in our hearts, thankfulness toward God and a submissive attitude to each other (Eph. 5:18-21);
- He gives demonstrative evidence of Himself through specific gifts (Acts 2:4).

**The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to the Church:**

- The gifts listed in the New Testament include Administration, Apostleship, Discernment, Encouragement, Evangelism, Faith, Giving, Healing, Helps, Hospitality, Interpretation of Tongues, Knowledge, Leadership, Mercy, Miracle, Prophecy, Shepherding, Teaching, Tongues, Wisdom (1 Cor. 12; Rom. 12:4-8; Eph. 4:11-16);
- As determined by the Holy Spirit, each believer receives at least one spiritual gift to be used for the good of the Church (1 Cor. 12:7);
- Scripture does not designate any one particular gift as the gift that every believer should have or seek to have. Gifts vary from believer to believer (Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:7-11; 28-31; 14:23; Eph. 4:11);
- We not only have different gifts, but we are called to serve in different ways and with different kinds of energy (1 Cor. 12:4-6).

**God has prescribed guidelines for the use of Spiritual gifts:**

- The emphasis in teaching and practice of spiritual gifts should be upon gifts that build up the church as opposed to simply the individual (Rom. 14:19; 1 Cor. 14:3,4; 12-19; Eph. 4:11,12)
- Any spiritual gift must be exercised in an order fashion led by the Holy Spirit and subject to the guidelines of Scripture (1 Cor. 14:13,28,39,40);
- Certain kinds of gifts sometimes referred to as “sign gifts” (such as tongues, healing, miracles) marked the ministry of the Apostles in a special way as confirmation of their message of God’s grace. Since these are specifically mentioned in Scripture as those which are likely to be abused and/or counterfeited, we must demonstrate great care and control by the Holy Spirit in exercising them (Acts 2:4; 14:3; 1 Cor. 1:6; 14:22,23; 2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:3,4; 2 Thes. 2:9).

**The Gift of Tongues**

Speaking in tongues in a spiritual gift; when it is used, there are certain guidelines to be followed (1 Cor. 12:10):

- No particular spiritual gift, including tongues, is given to every believer (1 Cor. 12:30)
- Tongues must be expressed in love or they lose their meaning. (1 Cor. 13:1)
- Many other gifts are more valuable than tongues. (1 Cor. 14:5, 12; 12:28)
- Tongues are not to be sought; we are to seek more important gifts. (1 Cor. 14:1,2,12))
- Tongues are not to be expressed by the whole church, but by two or three at the most, one at a time. (1 Cor. 14:23-27)
- Tongues are basically a sign to unbelievers who are present. (1 Cor. 14:22)
- There must be an interpretation. (1 Cor. 14:28)
- When there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet. (1 Cor. 14:28)
- We are not to forbid people to speak in tongues provided these guidelines are followed. (1 Cor. 14:16-19)
- Some believers praise God in their spirits through personal tongues of praise; such prayers should be expressed privately and personally. (1 Cor. 14:18,19)